Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-209
Friday
28 October 1994

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FBIS-NES-94-209 *28 October 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Syria, Israel Said Holding Secret Military Talks

TA2810110794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Oct 94 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] For over a year now, Syria and Israel have maintained a military liaison and coordination mechanism. Officers from both armies have secretly held regular meetings to discuss routine security issues of mutual interest. Some of the meetings between Syrian and Israeli officers have been held in Lebanese territory, which is easily accessible to both sides.

On the Israeli side, the military talks are handled by Brigadier General Barukh Spiegel, the commander of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] foreign liaison unit. This unit is in charge of contacts among the IDF and the armies of neighboring countries and the UN and multinational forces stationed along the borders. The Syrian side was apparently represented by General 'Adnan Tayyarah, the Syrian Army's chief liaison officer, who took part in the 1974 Geneva talks on security arrangements on the Golan Heights within the framework of the Syrian-Israeli disengagement agreement.

Representatives of both armies partook in at least one meeting, which was held in a European capital approximately one year ago, to discuss matters of joint interest. Egypt helped arrange that meeting and also mediated in contacts with the Syrians.

Israeli sources said that the officers' meetings did not constitute a separate negotiations track to the talks being held in Washington among the Syrian and Israeli ambassadors. The sources explained that the military liaison mechanism established by Syria and Israel should be viewed as an important confidence-building measure and an opportunity for officers from both armies to become acquainted with each other.

The sources said that the meetings focus on bilateral issues in a bid to prevent tensions along the border but do not deal with the problem of Hizballah terrorist activity from Lebanon. In the past, the Israeli and Syrian Armies maintained indirect contacts through UNDOF [UN Disengagement Observer Force].

For many years, the Syrians rejected any direct contacts between their officers and Israeli counterparts. Several months ago, Syria declared it would stop the minor violations of the disengagement agreement that had gone on for years.

Israel established a similar mechanism for military coordination with Jordan a long time before the peace agreement was signed. Over the past two years, against the background of the progress made in the peace talks, the Jordanians and the IDF decided to establish closer ties. Brig. Gen. Spiegel held monthly meetings with his Jordanian counterpart, General Mansur, in which the two men mainly discussed routine security issues such as border infiltrations, the problem of Iraqi defectors entering Israel through Jordan, and threats by terror organizations.

Parallel to the meetings held by the liaison officers, there were contacts between the Jordanian and Israeli military intelligence branches. Brigadier General 'Amos Gil'ad, who is now the IDF spokesman, was a member of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Jordan and was entrusted with forging cooperation against terrorism. In January 1994, Major General Uri Sagi, head of the IDF's Intelligence Branch, secretly met with his Jordanian counterpart, General Tahsin Shurdum, in Washington in the course of bilateral talks held at the time.

Since then, the two men have met openly on several occasions, most recently last week. Sagi also visited Egypt this year and met with his Egyptian counterpart.

Egypt's Musa Welcomes Agreement, Urges Progress

TA2710152994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Oct 94 p A2

[Report by Gay Bekhor]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "Egypt is satisfied that another Arab country has signed a peace treaty with Israel but urges not forgetting that peace must be comprehensive, also including Syria and Lebanon." This was said yesterday by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

"If peace with Syria calls for our intervention we will do so without hesitation, because the Syrians have a just cause and are justified in calling for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Such a withdrawal is necessary if Israel wants to fulfill its part in the equation: land for peace," Musa said.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak yesterday called President 'Ezer Weizman and congratulated him on his participation in the peace treaty signing ceremony. Most of the Arab world welcomed the new peace treaty, and most of the Arab countries sent representatives to attend the signing ceremony. Lebanon's foreign minister was invited to the ceremony, but did not come. [passage omitted]

PLO Concerned Over Annex in Israel-Jordan Treaty

TA2710153494 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 27 Oct 94 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[FBIS Translated Text] A perusal of the border annex in the Israel-Jordan peace treaty reveals a serious problem from the PLO's point of view.

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It appears that Jordan and Israel agreed on the border line between the West Bank and Jordan. This line was marked with a different color and was not defined as an international line, rather as an administrative border. At the same time the PLO was not invited to participate in the border demarcation discussions.

The annex also fails to mention the name Palestine as a designation for the territory west of the river.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Economic Summit Feared To Hurt 'Bargaining Power'

NC2710163394 Paris AFP in English 1500 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 27 (AFP)—The Arab League said Thursday [27 October] it feared the Casablanca economic summit on the Middle East would weaken the Arab boycott of Israel and take away a key bargaining chip with the Jewish state.

"The boycott was one of the most effective weapons Arab negotiators could use to help recover their rights," said 'Adnan 'Imran, deputy secretary-general of the Cairo-based League.

The three-day conference on the Middle East and North Africa which opens in Morocco on Sunday will discuss economic cooperation between Israel and Arab states to bolster peace in the region.

But 'Imran said: "Such meetings remain useless so long as global peace, requiring an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, is not secured."

Islamic and left-wing opposition newspapers in Egypt, which is sending a delegation to the Moroccan city of Casablanca, said the conference would allow Israel a way into Arab markets while reducing the Arabs' bargaining power.

"The end of the boycott on Israel will work in its favour to the detriment of Arab countries, which marks a change in the balance of power in the region in Israel's favour," said AL-AHALI weekly.

AL-AHRAR, an Islamic daily, said the conference was aimed at teaching companies how to "swallow up" the Arab market under orders from Israel, the "new leader in the region."

The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council decided to lift the indirect economic boycott on Israel on September 30, affecting companies which did business with the Jewish state.

But the direct boycott imposed by the Arab League in the 1950s, which it says has cost Israel 47 billion dollars, remains in place.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar, two GCC members, announced Thursday they would take part in the Casablanca conference. Fellow member Kuwait is also sending a delegation.

The forum would "strengthen the peace process by promoting economic cooperation and consolidating development" in the Middle East, the official UAE news agency WAM reported.

The Arab League is also sending a delegation headed by secretary general 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to "defend Arab interests," said 'Imran, adding that it would not hold talks with Israeli officials.

Syria and Lebanon, whose peace negotiations with Israel are deadlocked over the return of occupied land, are boycotting the conference.

Egypt said Thursday it would try to find investors at the conference to fund the construction of a petrochemical factory and oil refinery at a total cost of 2.35 billion dollars.

Kuwait Signs Arab Civil Aviation Authority Accord

LD2610135494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1152 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Oct—Kuwait and the Arab League in Cairo today signed the Arab Civil Aviation Authority accord, which aims at supporting cooperation and coordination among member states in that field. [passage omitted]

The authority, based in the Moroccan capital Rabat, aims at drawing up an overall civil aviation scheme for Arab countries to develop that sector and ensure safety in it. It also aims at boosting cooperation and coordination among Arab countries in that field, and exchanging expertise and information in matters concerning civil aviation.

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah Leader: Clinton Comment on Hamas 'Nonsense'

TA2810093394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A Fatah leader in the Gaza Strip has issued a statement in which he claims there is no truth to Clinton's comment that 'Arafat has promised to clamp down on Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Fatah's Hisham 'Abd-al-Razzaq has described Clinton's remark as nonsense, adding that the U.S. President is not 'Arafat's spokesman. According to 'Abd-al-Razzaq the dialogue with Hamas is continuing.

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Reactions Reported to Clinton Jerusalem Visit

JN2710203094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President of the Palestinian National Authority Yasir 'Arafat has asked President Bill Clinton to end the Israeli occupation of the territories, including Jerusalem, whose occupation has not been recognized by the international community and the U.S. Government.

'Arafat's adviser, Marwan Kanafani, said that 'Arafat welcomes Clinton's visit to the Christian and Muslim holy places and other religious cites. Kanafani said that Jerusalem Mayor, Ehud Olmert, has been trying to exploit the visit for political aims to cause confusion, adding that this does not help the promotion of the peace process, which Bill Clinton has insisted on continuing.

On the results of 'Arafat's meeting with Clinton and his visit to Jerusalem, Ahmad Zaki held the following interview with 'Arafat's adviser Nabil Abu-Rudaynah:

[Begin recording] [Ahmad Zaki] Good evening Mr. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Good evening.

[Ahmad Zaki] Could you evaluate the results of President 'Arafat's meeting with President Clinton in Cairo?

[Abu-Rudaynah] It was a successful, fruitful meeting. 'Arafat raised several issues, especially the issue of holding the elections as soon as possible, obstacles to the peace process, and the need to continue implementing the agreement. The Palestinian estimation is that the meeting was fruitful and successful. There was U.S. understanding, which was reflected later at the news conference by President Clinton.

[Ahmad Zaki] Have there been promises tc pressure Israel into a commitment to implementing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

[Abu-Rudaynah] As you know, the United States is one of the two cosponsors of the peace process and we asked that it carries out its duties. The agreement was signed in Washington and, therefore, the United States is committed to and responsible for a successful conclusion to the peace process.

[Ahmad Zaki] Has President Clinton promised 'Arafat that there will be direct implementation of the agreement in terms of holding legislative elections, the redeployment of the Israeli army, and the Palestinian supervision of the crossings and the safe passage between Gaza and Jericho?

[Abu-Rudaynah] The Palestinian side, that is, President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] presented all these problems and difficulties facing the peace process and asked that the United States exert what it possibly can to implement agreements signed in Washington and later in Cairo.

[Ahmad Zaki] 'Arafat today welcomed President Clinton's visit to Jerusalem but the U.S. President canceled his visit to east Jerusalem, Arab Jerusalem, and especially the holy places. Could you comment on this?

[Abu-Rudaynah] As you know, President Abu-'Ammar's stand, the National Authority's stand, is that we welcome the U.S. President to visit the Christian and Muslim holy places at any time. We regard Jerusalem as part of the occupied territory and therefore, the political and geographic jurisdiction belongs to the Palestinian side. On this occasion, we thank the U.S. side which took this point into consideration.

[Ahmad Zaki] But Ehud Olmert is trying to exploit Clinton's visit politically?

[Abu-Rudaynah] What concerns us is the U.S. position. We consider this U.S. step a recognition of the legitimacy of the Palestinian territory, authority, and decision, that Jerusalem is part of the occupied territory, what applies to the Arab territories also applies to it, and that the Palestinian decisionmaking and authority belongs to the PLO and National Authority.

[Ahmad Zaki] Thank you, Mr. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat. [end recording]

Clinton's visit to Jerusalem triggered several reactions. Faysal al-Husayni, head of the negotiating Palestinian delegation, said: We welcome U.S. President Bill Clinton to the holy places in Jerusalem. He added: The Palestinians will not receive him if he is accompanied by Israeli officials. Al-Husayni said that the gates of the Jerusalem Mosque will not be opened to the U.S. and Israeli delegations.

Commenting on Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert's insistence on accompanying Clinton in a visit to Islamic places, al-Husayni said: Ehud Olmert can visit these places at any other time and not with the U.S. President. He said the Palestinians prefer that no one encroach on the issue of Jerusalem because it will lead to repercussions.

Later today, President Clinton canceled his visit to east Jerusalem and the holy places in the company with Mayor Ehud Olmert. However, Mrs. Hillary Clinton this afternoon visited the Wailing wall in Jerusalem. She was not accompanied by her husband.

Clinton will meet with Yitzhaq Rabin at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem today to brief him on his talks with the Syria president. He will also meet with the head of state, Ezer Weizman, and will later make a ceremonial speech in the Knesset.

Hamas Threatens To 'Burn the Earth' Under Clinton

TA2710133194 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Oct 94 p 26

[Report by Eli Bohadana and ITIM]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "This is where we were born and on this land we will die. Death to Clinton." This was the graffiti painted by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members on Gaza walls. Alongside some of the graffiti an American flag was painted with a knife sticking into it.

Palestinian sources report that Hamas activists in Nabulus have threatened to attack U.S. targets. A leaflet distributed in Nabulus says the organization will burn the earth under Clinton's feet. [passage omitted]

Denounces 'Arafat Pledge to Clinton

JN2710155394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, today denounced the pledge that the Palestinian Authority president, Yasir 'Arafat, made to U.S. President Bill Clinton to fight Hamas. In a statement distributed in Damascus, Hamas voiced its indignation at and condemned 'Arafat's pledge which may lead to a civil war and result in dire consequences.

Hamas also denounced the U.S. Administration's interference in Palestinian internal affairs and condemned the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty, holding 'Arafat responsible for it because he opened the way for signing capitulatory agreements, as Hamas put it.

Security Forces Statement on 'Suspect Elements'

TA2610114494 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 24 Oct 94 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gaza—Late last night, the media spokesman for the Palestinian National Security Forces and Police issued the following statement:

To the masses of our Palestinian people: in the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O ye who believe, if a wicked person comes to you with any news, ascertain the truth, lest ye harm people unwittingly, and afterwards become full of repentance for what ye have done. [Koranic verse]

Out of our pride for the steadfastness and will of our heroic people, their awareness in confronting any conspiracy against their rights and national authority, and their sensibilities regarding the dimensions and the background of positions, we affirm that this authority has come about in steps on a long and difficult road in order that it advance firmly and patiently toward the gradual achievement of our national goals amid extremely difficult international and regional conditions that are witnessing a massive imbalance of forces.

This authority has bolstered the basic principles that led to the reinforcement of the recognition we gained for the existence of our people on the world's political map as an independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital. Moreover, it has enhanced the foundations consecrated by the experiences, sacrifices, and struggles of our people, foremost of which is Palestinian national unity.

Our faith in national unity is unshakeable, because this unity is one of the weapons of resistance in the hands of our people that can neutralize their enemies.

On the basis of this faith, we have adhered to the rules of democracy and democratic dialogue and allowed the expression of different views and opinions on the basis of red lines. These are: no infighting and no violating the principle of democratic dialogue, the sovereignty of the law, public order, and stability.

Nonetheless, there are suspect elements that receive instructions from foreign authorities who have no connection with the people's interest. These elements now and then raise misleading slogans and exploit the disinclination of the Palestinian National Authority and the national security to become embroiled in the maze of suspect statements that they have become accustomed to issuing.

We would have preferred not to become involved in issuing such statements but for the persistence of this group, which only wants to continue sowing the seeds of discord in order to promote the goals set by foreign parties whose aim is to strike at the gains of our people, achieved by the sacrifices of its sons, heroes, martyrs, wounded, prisoners, detainees, and revolutionaries over the last 30 years.

We have the right to ask: To whose benefit is it to misuse the democracy that has been granted to each and every one of our people?

Despite this, the Palestinian people's march to regain all its homeland, foremost of all holy Jerusalem, will remain our national goal. Our Palestinian people are paying a high price daily, because of foreign instructions and orders, which are primarily targeted against the gains of these patient and struggling people, who want to complete the construction of their homeland and the establishment of their independence. Those instructions and orders also seek to halt the peace process.

The harmony in roles is not only making our students, workers, farmers, merchants, and masses pay the price but is hampering our goal of regaining the rest of our lands, our Jerusalem, and our sanctities and of building our independent state.

Our authority has felt a great responsibility for all these problems, just as it feels responsible for realizing national achievements by resolving all pending issues involving Israeli occupation for the sake of establishing our independent Palestinian state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Our authority has faced difficulties, foremost of all procrastination by the Israeli authorities and their

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desire, as well as that of some Israeli parties, to renege on their commitments and refrain from completing the steps—especially with regard to handing over the West Bank and extending the powers of the Palestinian National Authority to this area—which are to culminate in the holding of legislative elections. Last but not least, the Israeli authorities have exploited everything that has happened to consolidate the siege. This desire has coincided with other desires in the region, especially with regard to addressing the status of Jerusalem, assailing the principle of sovereignty over it, and attempting to divide this sovereignty over the holy city and its Christian and Islamic sanctities.

Under these circumstances, some activities and statements have provided the climate and pretext to these parties not only to achieve their goals and find international and local excuses, but to exert pressure on any opposing trend or view.

Our National Authority has handled this issue in a calm and restricted manner, which does not involve burning bridges or destroying the chances for national unity. We, however, stress our resolve to resist with the utmost determination those who endanger the security of the homeland and its inhabitants and harm their interests and lives, especially with regard to the livelihood of our masses. We are determined to provide employment for workers and move the wheels of the economic cart on the soil of the Palestinian homeland.

At the same time, we open our arms to national dialogue, national unity, and mutual understanding within the framework of principles that do no allow any individual to behave in a way that affects our national conscience with the belief that he alone has the right to do so. [passage omitted]

PFLP-GC Assails Jordanian-Israeli Treaty

JN2710201994 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Oct 94

["Political statement" issued by the PFLP-GC; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Capping a political history that is replete with secret contacts with the Zionist entity dating back more than 40 years, King Husayn has crowned his agentry for the Zionist entity with a capitulation treaty, which has enabled the enemy to make serious strategic gains that undermine our nation's security and its historical rights. Thus, the king has consummated the efforts started by his grandfather traitor 'Abdallah. He believes that the current circumstances provide him with the opportunity to unmask his true approach, ideas, and connections. He is using the successive declines that have hit the region in the aftermath of the second Gulf war. At the same time, the king has used the political cover provided by 'Arafat's approach and the treasonous agreements it has thus far yielded.

While condemning the humiliating and treasonous agreement signed between King Husayn and the Zionist enemy on 26 October 1994, we, within the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] underscore the need for all nationalist, pan-Arab, and Islamic forces to make concerted efforts to resist this treaty and all its results by all available means so that the Jordanian people's forces may play a pioneering role in countering the attempts to repress them and obscure their will and wishes.

Land-lease deals, according to which the homeland is being sold out, have been concluded on the Jordanian people's behalf, thanks to the misrepresentation of their wishes.

The statement issued by the PFLP-GC added: The treasonous Wadi al-'Arabah agreement has rendered Jordan a party to a sweeping political alliance with the Zionist entity. Thus, Jordan and the Zionist entity have closed ranks to counter our Arab nation and its future. The hostile dimensions of this alliance can be ascertained when we realize the following:

First, the Wadi al-'Arabah treaty carries within itself the nucleus of a political, security, and political alliance that almost renders the Zionist entity and Jordan parts of a unified state. In this alliance, Jordan is meant to play the role of a subservient state. Jordan is meant to serve as a passageway for promoting the enemy's security, economic, and other activities in the region.

Second, King Husayn's determination to confer a religious halo around his treasonous deals citing his Hashemite ancestry, raising a sort of ridiculous conflict with 'Arafat on the issue of sovereignty over Jerusalem, and his endorsement of the revocation of the Palestinian refugees' right to repatriation all constitute a most tragic and devastating development. This is because by so doing, he has obliterated the cultural and religious bases of the conflict. Likewise, he has revoked the rights and historical identity of a large part of our people in an attempt to consecrate their exile and obliterate their identity, which the Zionist expulsion and Judaization policy has failed to achieve.

Third, the king has demonstrated unprecedented humiliation before the Zionist enemy. This has shown the king at his worst throughout his history. He has done what the Zionists wanted him to do. He has set a new precedent by turning the entire Jordanian territory into leasable land regardless of the fact that the land tracts he has leased to the enemy might be small.

Fourth, the Jordanian people and the Palestine question have been dealt a blow in the name of the king's democracy, which has been used, exploited, and abused by the cosponsor of the peace agreement, who bore witness to the misrepresentation of the Jordanian people's will. The Jordanian people have not been consulted in any of the developments that concerned the future of their generations. These developments have turned

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Jordan into a security belt promoting the enemy's interests, and a gateway through which the Zionist enemy's tempests will blow against whoever dares to oppose treasonous agreements.

Fifth, King Husayn might have obtained temporary guarantees to protect his throne for awhile. However, thanks to his decision to sell out Jordanian territory and the cause, he has entered the labyrinth of the future, which is bound to promote this nation's cause. We have confidence in the ability of the Jordanian people and their revolutionary forces to defend their future, Jordan's role, and Jordan's sentiments, which are sympathetic to the Arab and Islamic nation.

At the same time, we would like to express our solidarity with and support for these forces in their efforts to safeguard our present and future and confront all agreements, which will inevitably be thwarted, thanks to the determination and resolve of believers.

It is a revolution until the liberation of land and man.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC

Hamas Representative on Peace Stands, Developments

JN2310112094 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 24 Oct 94 p 8

[Interview with Hamas representative in Jordan Muhammad Nazzal by correspondent Malik Abu- Zayd; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-Zayd] How would you assess the situation in the self-rule areas following the Palestinian Authority's assumption of power there?

[Nazzal] An objective assessment of the situation in Gaza and Jericho shows that it is deteriorating daily. So far, the Palestinian citizen has not seen any improvement in the economic situation or in daily living conditions, especially in Gaza. While some have rejoiced at the occupation army's departure from densely-populated areas, the presence of settlements and the stationing of the Israeli army at the entrances and main roads and the ensuing obstacles to incoming and outgoing traffic clearly indicate that the occupation is still there.

With respect to the Palestinian Authority, confusion prevails in the administrative field. The many security bodies, their disputes, and their rivalry have had a negative impact on the state of affairs in the Gaza Strip. From this premise, one can objectively say that no real achievements of which one can be proud have been scored yet. Frankly, we do not expect such achievements because the fault lies first and foremost in the Gaza-Jericho Accord which, in our opinion, cannot succeed.

[Abu-Zayd] What is Hamas's stand on the Israeli condition that the process of normalization should start before its forces leave the other occupied territories?

[Nazzal] We are not against peace. However, we must define our concept of peace. Does peace mean that we ought to give up our land and rights? The negotiations that started in Madrid and ended in Oslo did not solve the Palestinian problem. They solved the Israeli problem as the Israelis wanted the Gaza-Jericho Accord to be the bridge for the normalization of relations and for having the Zionist entity become a natural part of the region. This is what Israel seeks to achieve through the peace process. That's why we explicitly reject this process, which serves the occupation and legitimizes its presence.

[Abu-Zayd] Will you participate in the forthcoming municipal and national councils elections?

[Nazzal] We support participation in the municipal council elections without any reservations. We denounced Yasir 'Arafat's establishing municipal councils only in certain areas under the pretext that the appropriate circumstances for holding elections are not available. As for elections to the self-rule council, whose configuration and nature still have to be determined, in principle we are against participating in elections for it because they are elections for an executive council over which the occupation authorities will have the final say.

[Abu-Zayd] What has become of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces, which is made up of the 10 Palestinian factions opposing the peace process?

[Nazzal] The Alliance of Palestinian Forces is a political forum comprised of factions with different political and ideological concepts but which have a common denominator, the rejection of the peace settlement and the results it entails. As a political forum the alliance is performing reasonably at this stage.

[Abu-Zayd] Are there other formulas under preparation since the previous formulas did not succeed?

[Nazzal] We believe that the formula of the alliance of the 10 forces is acceptable for work at the present stage. We are doing our best to activate this alliance. We are eager to maintain this formula and to activate it. If we see that there is a dire need to develop it or to seek new formulas, we will not hesitate to do so.

[Abu-Zayd] Reports mention that there has been important progress in the peace process on all fronts. Will this affect your movement's stand and its activities inside and the outside the territories?

[Nazzal] The main and most important body of Hamas is in the occupied Palestinian territories, as they are the actual and direct confrontation arena. From this premise, Hamas will not be much affected by the agreements concluded on the Arab tracks.

[Abu-Zayd] How will the question of Arab and Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails, who number close to 7,000, be solved?

[Nazzal] Past events have shown that the issue of Palestinian detainees is one of the cards the Zionists are

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exploiting in the negotiations. Although the agreements stipulate their release, the Zionists procrastinate to make further gains as they are aware how important the issue of detainees is. We are aware of the importance of the issue of detainees. The recent Hamas operation concerning the kidnapping of soldier Wachsman emphasizes this importance.

[Abu-Zayd] A great deal has been said recently about an agreement between your movement and the Palestinian authorities in Gaza and Jericho, specifically concerning your military operations within the self-rule areas. How true are these reports?

[Nazzal] We are ready to cooperate and coordinate with any Palestinian party in confronting the occupation. The meetings that took place with members of the Palestinian Authority, including Yasir 'Arafat, were to settle problems encountered on the ground to avoid clashes with this authority.

[Abu-Zayd] What about your present relationship with the Palestinian police and security departments in the self-rule areas. Do you still have detainees in Palestinian prisons?

[Nazzal] Of course. Following the kidnapping of the Israeli soldier, the authorities arrested many Hamas members. The arrest campaign resembled the ones Israel used to carry out. There are hundreds of Hamas detainees still in the self-rule prisons.

[Abu-Zayd] After every military operation by the 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam Battalions, the Israeli and Palestinian sides immediately denounce your operations, emphasizing this will not affect or stop the peace process. Will military operations continue in all the Palestinian territories?

[Nazzal] Hamas views resistance in all its forms as a firm strategy. Military action is the most important of these forms. The past has shown that military operations did not stop in spite of all the agreements and negotiations. On the contrary, they developed in form and content. We were not part of the settlement process. Therefore, we are not bound by its results or conditions.

[Abu-Zayd] Following your movement's kidnapping of the Israeli soldier, Rabin said 'Arafat is responsible for the operation. He also closed the Gaza Strip. Do you believe Israel will succeed this time in instigating internecine Palestinian fighting?

[Nazzal] Developments have shown the Israeli soldier was neither kidnapped in Gaza nor kept prisoner there. It became evident that the accusations leveled at the Palestinian Authority were meant to transform the crisis from an Israeli-Palestinian one into an Palestinian-Palestinian one and to blackmail 'Arafat and bring pressure to bear on him. We have stated and we continue to say that we are against intra-Palestinian fighting, and we have proven this on the ground. We hope that the other party is as eager as the Hamas Movement on this issue.

Islamic Jihad Leader on 'Financial Crisis,' Hamas

JN2710075294 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 24 Oct 94 p 4

[Interview with Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the "Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine," by 'Abd-al-Salam 'Aql at the Carleton Hotel in Beirut; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] ['Aql] Let us now move to politics directly. Has the role of the Islamic Jihad Movement subsided? It is rumored that the movement's internal situation is unstable. How true is that?

[Al-Shaqaqi] The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine is stable politically, intellectually, and organizationally. In fact, it is better than it has been in any previous phase of its history. Everyone knows that different views and misunderstandings may exist in any movement, organization, or party. We are no exception, especially since we are experiencing difficult and extremely complicated circumstances on the international, regional, and domestic levels.

However, God be praised, there have not been any disagreements with negative effects on the general intellectual or political orientation. We have never experienced a disagreement that affected the movement's march, cadres, or effectiveness.

Under the circumstances, our performance is reasonable. Despite the hard circumstances and low resources, we have not failed to perform our duty or to continue our struggle and jihad. God be praised, our will is strong. We are exploiting all our limited resources in the jihad against the Zionist enemy. I stress that armed jihad is the raison d'etre of the movement. We will not give up that role. We place it at the top of our priority list and concerns. This role will continue even under the most difficult circumstances. We believe that this Zionist entity, which has been established through terrorism and suppression, understands only the language of violence. Our violence is sacred and right. It is a jihad for the sake of God, principles, and the homeland. I repeat, under the most difficult circumstances, we must not give up this mission. Our constant slogan is: Duty is above resources. No matter how great the enemy resources are and how limited our resources are, priority must be given to our duty, which is our motive and source of inspiration. I assure you and everyone else that the status of the Islamic resistance movement on the political and organizational levels is now better than ever before. God willing, this will be reflected on the overall performance of the movement.

['Aql] You are focusing on the status of the movement now and say that its status today is better than ever

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before. What does this mean? Does it indicate previous problems inside the movement?

[Al-Shaqaqi] I have neither denied nor concealed that, like any other political movement in the region, we have suffered various problems. However, in response to certain rumors about secessions here and splits there, I can say that those are exaggerated rumors. The movement's continued coherence and firmness, with the help of God, will remain undoubted.

['Aql] Some also say that the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine is suffering from a financial crisis. If that is case, what are the causes?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Tell me about any revolutionary faction that is not suffering that problem today. The United States is the sole superpower, but, I believe, not forever. It is putting pressure on states, forces, and parties. Therefore, we see that for the first time in their history, the revolutionary Palestinian forces and Palestinian opposition are standing without any international or regional political or material support. This crisis seems to be general and includes almost everybody. Since its first day, our movement has not paid great attention to material resources. In fact, we have raised the slogan duty above resources since the first day. Whether there is a financial crisis or not, we will continue our jihad by all possible and available means. The financial crisis may affect performance, but it will not destroy it. Nor will it change our convictions.

['Aql] Some people ask why the Islamic Jihad Movement doesn't join its roots in the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement, taking into consideration that unity is a source of strength?

[Al-Shaqaqi] The Islamic Jihad Movement was established in 1980. It developed from an idea, dialogue, and a nucleus into an organization in that year. The Hamas Movement was established early in 1988 or late in 1987. Based on this, I do not know what you mean by roots. If you mean that we were an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood of which Hamas stemmed, I can tell you that some of the Islamic Jihad Movement's members were influenced by the Muslim Brotherhood's experience at a certain stage, but the Islamic Jihad Movement has never been an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood. When we were established and when we grew, the nationalist movement was dissociating from Islam, and the Islamic movement had concerns and priorities but Palestine and jihad for the sake of Palestine were not among these concerns and priorities. So, we came to resolve a problem; namely, nationalists without Islam and Islamists without Palestine. Based on this, we took Islam as our springboard, Palestine as a target for liberation, and jihad as a means. Therefore, speaking about the issue of roots is inaccurate. Regardless of this, our relations with Hamas are excellent. We meet and discuss the great common denominators between us. We hope that we will reach a high level of coordination that will qualify us for a true unity, God willing.

['Aql] What are the obstacles to the development of the 10 factions and the Alliance of Palestinian Forces?

[Al-Shaqaqi] I have answered this question many times. This issue needs true and frank discussion. We should realize that, generally, the factions suffer from an internal weakness that has developed throughout many years of bureaucracy, military domination, and tyranny. This has prevented any development or renovation. The Palestinian organizations are now in a bad shape despite their good intentions. We are aware of the strong argument between the concept and the organization, and between the project and the container that carries this project. This is why it has become necessary to rebuild this container on new bases. We are in need of a revolution in thought and organization together. We also should not forget the crisis of confidence among some opposition forces. The meetings that take place at infrequent intervals and the pressure of rumors have urged some sides to cast doubts on the seriousness of other sides' opposition to the conspiracy, and vice-versa. I mean that there are mutual doubts. Under such circumstances, individual inclinations grow at the expense of public interests. I have also not forgotten the issue of the absence of international and regional aid to the opposition for the first time in the history of the Palestinian revolution, which I mentioned before, while this aid is continuing for the self-rule team.

The confrontation may be difficult and painful for some but this is a fact that must be faced if we want to leap forward and move to wider vistas. However, I emphasize that the Alliance of Palestinian Forces has not outlasted its aims and is still capable of doing much against an ugly and shaky agreement, which is being imposed by force and cannot remain on its feet without the great support it is receiving from abroad. The Palestinian revolutionary forces' efforts to stem the spread of defeat is quite obvious. Equally obvious is their attempt to raise the banner of struggle and hope. Political plans will fall if their implementation stops or if they lose support. As long as the Palestinian forces continue their line of action and their challenge, the battle will go on.

Finally, I appeal to all the forces of the Palestinian alliance to hold serious, continual, and sufficient meetings and dialogue to discuss the obstacles and the ways to overcome them and to return to the program of joint action that has already been approved.

['Aql] How do you evaluate five months of autonomous rule and what is your views on the theory that there is no alternative and we should just build on what we can realize; namely, the self-rule agreement?

[Al-Shaqaqi] The harvest has been painful and bitter. The occupiers have not even left this narrow strip, which constitutes 2 percent of Palestinian territory. The occupiers have been relieved of the security burden and of their political, moral, and psychological impasse brought about by the great and triumphant intifadah. The pro-'Arafat people exploited the intifadah and sold it out at

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a cheap price. Instead of adopting it as a strategic plan of progress and liberation and as a spearhead for the nation's awakening, they sold it for nothing.

Five m nths of self-rule exceeded the selling out of the entire Palestinian territory. It has transformed Gaza and Jericho into gates for the spreading of Zionism to the region from Indonesia to Morocco. This was proved by the visits of Rabin and Peres immediately after the signing of the Oslo agreement in Washington.

The harvest has been further collapse on the economic, security, social, and moral levels—including unemployment, thefts, tyranny, and limitless anarchy.

The idea of building on the Oslo agreement is useless because the text of the agreement is a Zionist text governed by the Zionist will and the Zionist balance of forces. All this shackles the agreement, which in any case does not provide for independence.

Under this agreement, the situation will worsen further on all levels and therefore, our only hope is to destroy the agreement and prevent its application in other parts of the region because the aim is to give autonomous rule to the entire Arab region and not only to Gaza and Jericho.

['Aql] In conclusion, do you still insist on not participating in the Palestinian autonomous elections, given that the enemy also opposes your participation?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Regardless of the enemy's tactics, we will not participate in the autonomous council elections because, according to the agreement, this council will remain a tool in the hand of the occupation. We refuse to participate in any process that lends legitimacy to an agreement that will consecrate the occupation.

First Edition of Islamic Jihad Weekly Published

TA2210135694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the Gaza Strip the first edition of an Islamic Jihad weekly appeared today. The editor is 'Ala' al- Saftawi. Yasir 'Arafat approved the publication of AL-ISTIQLAL; the first edition has wide coverage of the bomb incident in Dizengoff Street.

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Algeria

APS Journalist Assassinated in Blida Province

LD2710191894 Algiers Radio Algiers in Berber 1830 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Benachour Mohamed Salah, an APS journalist, was killed this afternoon at 1700. This was announced in a security services statement. He was killed in Boufarik, in the province of Blida, by two armed men. He was killed with a firearm. He is the third APS journalist to be murdered by armed groups.

Armed Group Ransacks Village in Kabylie

LD2710174494 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, armed Islamist groups seem to be carrying out big scale raids. According to the daily LIBERTE, the Idjer village in Kabylie was ransacked by an unidentified armed group, but none of the inhabitants were injured. Adala Benraad:

[Benraad] According to this newspaper, it was in the early afternoon [date not given] that the attack was launched against this village located 130 km east of Algiers, a region said to be one of the Islamist strongholds in Kabylie. Armed with Kalashnikovs and automatic guns and driving six trucks and two cars, the attackers invaded the building of the city council, after sealing off the village.

According to a member of the Rally for Culture and Democracy, they erected two roadblocks, one at the entrance of the locality, the other at the exit. As a result, the 1,500 residents found themselves taken hostage. The attackers then burned buses and trucks, ransacked the trade center, taking in particular bags of potatoes, milk cartons, and oil containers. But they did not stop at this. They went to the post office from which they took an estimated sum of 25,000 French francs.

According to some unconfirmed sources, the attackers also took several identity cards. This attack, which did not cause personal injury, could be interpreted as a means of pressure from the GIA [Armed Islamic Group] on the Kabylie population. The GIA had in fact asked the Kabylie people to support its jihad. The message was given to the singer Matoub Lounes who was kidnapped at the end of September and released two weeks later.

FIS "Terrorist" Killed in Bou Saada

LD2710204094 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just heard that thanks to information received from the public, the security forces have been able to kill a terrorist who has been sought since June 1991 in the Maadhar area in Bou Saada. He was identified as Aazi Djami, aged 33, who had issued special fatwas that made assassination and burglary permissible. He was a member of the dissolved FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] consultative council.

Security Services 'Eliminate' Nine 'Terrorists'

LD2710124894 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] News on the security situation: A security services' statement released today announced that its forces eliminated nine terrorists between Monday and Wednesday of this week in Blida, Tipaza, Bouira, Boumedes, Medea, and Mascara Province. The security forces also recovered a quantity of weapons, and two trucks stolen earlier by the terrorists.

Official Outlines Principles of Privatization

LD2610223194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ahmed Attaf, secretary of state for cooperation and Maghreban affairs and the official government spokesman, at his news conference held at the Foreign Ministry today dealt with the main national and international issues. [passage omitted]

Regarding the economic policy in the country, especially the restructuring and the privatization of public establishments, the official government spokesman pointed out that this policy depends on three main principles.

[Begin Attaf recording] The first principle is that we do not enter political or ideological considerations into this file. We treat the issue of restructuring from the economic viewpoint only . The second principle is that of consultation. With regard to this subject, the government is holding continuous contact and consultation with its partners, whether contractors or trade unions. The third principle is making this process gradual. We are now about to carry out a study of the economic and financial situation of all our establishments, and gradually we will introduce restructuring with all its capabilities into our establishments. [end recording]

Algeria's relations with its neighbors and other states were raised also at this media meeting. Here, Mr. Attaf pointed out that Algerian relations with its neighbors are characterized by mutual respect, coordination, and consultation. He pointed out that the mission of the three envoys of the head of state to Tunisia, Libya, and Mauritania fell within the framework of consultation with regard to bilateral and Maghreban issues. Regarding the normalization of Algerian-Moroccan relations, Ahmed Attaf reaffirmed that Algeria has not done so because the state that adopted the initiative of imposing the visa is the state that is now being called upon to take initiatives to revive relations between the two countries.

With regard to Algerian-Egyptian relations, the government official spokesman reaffirmed that there is great coordination in the political field, but there is very little

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cooperation in the economic field as it does not exceed 3 billion dollars annually. Here, the official spokesman reaffirmed that Algeria will play host before the end of the year to the Algerian-Egyptian Joint Commission meeting. The aim behind this is to give more dynamism to economic cooperation between the two countries.

Egypt

Clinton Message to Author Najib Mahfuz Reported

NC2710162094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—Internationally renowned Egyptian author Najib Mahfuz has received a message from U.S. President Bill Clinton expressing his wishes for Mahfuz's speedy recovery.

The following is the text of the message handed over to the great writer this morning by U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Edward Walker:

Dear Mr. Mahfuz

The voice of the free man is more powerful than all the forces of terrorism and rejection. Your writing has had a great impact on us all. I offer you my sincerest wishes for a speedy and swift recovery. [passage omitted]

Sidqi Comments on U.S., Regional Cooperation

NC2610142394 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi has stated that four committees will emerge from the Egyptian-U.S. partnership agreement. They are: A committee for technology and its related issues, a committee for economic development and its related issues, a committee for financial and technical cooperation in the field of trade, and a committee for the environment and its related issues.

Speaking to reporters following the news conference held by Presidents Mubarak and Clinton at al-Qubbah Palace today, Dr. Sidqi said that the two presidents had not gone into a detailed discussion of the agreement. The agreement will be discussed and its details announced during U.S. Vice President Al Gore's visit to Egypt in December or January, he added, noting that the agreement had taken some kind of shape during the talks between Presidents Mubarak and Clinton.

On the Casablanca conference for cooperation among the Middle Eastern and North African countries, Dr. Sidqi said the summit will discuss two topics. The first is the pros and cons of the notion of regional cooperation and conditions for its success and the second relates to projects of a regional nature that serve industry, agriculture, telecommunication, roads, maritime transport, and other areas relating to regional cooperation. He noted that the Casablanca summit is an international meeting that will group together Middle Eastern and North African states. Several other countries are also invited to the summit, he added. Dr. Sidqi said he hoped that as many states as possible would attend the meeting so as to serve the region's future in its new stage of historic development regarding the peace process and its aftermath. He added that the conference is a good idea that we hope will succeed. He expressed his belief that all the participating countries will have a role to play, especially as development in the region requires financing that may not be available to the region's countries but could be made available by other countries in the form of joint ventures.

Regarding fears of an Israeli penetration of the region, Dr. Sidqi said: We must live with the reality; peace imposes itself and it must succeed. As Presidents Mubarak and Clinton have mentioned, the success and comprehensiveness of the peace process require us to cooperate together. Dr. Sidqi emphasized that there are no substantial differences between Egypt and the IMF.

U.S. Peace Efforts, Country's Role Lauded

NC2710200994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 27 Oct 94

[Commentary by Muhammad Sharaf: "The Importance of Egypt's Role in U.S. Strategy for the Middle East"]

[FBIS Translated Text] High worldwide interest in President Clinton's first visit to the Middle East is justified, because the United States is the only superpower during this transitional stage in which a new world order is taking shape following the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. The United States is the most influential country in the Middle East at this stage. Before discussing the various political, economic, and military aspects of his visit, we must first stop to ponder how significant, regionally and internationally, the fact is that President Clinton started his tour of the region with a visit to Egypt yesterday.

Before the visit and on every occasion, the U.S. President and senior U.S. officials have underlined Egypt's regional and international importance in U.S. modern political thinking. In his news conference yesterday following his talks with President Husni Mubarak, U.S. President Clinton shed more light on this point. A quick and objective analysis of the news conference reveals that the United States has a special appreciation and regard first for President Mubarak's and Egypt's role in the peace process and, second, for its regional role, standing, and importance as far as the region and U.S. political and economic policies toward the region are concerned.

The shift in U.S. policy toward Egypt took place, as is known, in the mid-seventies. It started to take on a strategic nature following the signing of the peace treaty with Israel in the late seventies, a treaty in which former U.S. President Jimmy Carter played an instrumental

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role. This interest continued throughout the eighties. It became more focused on the role that Egypt has played in the international alliance against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, its later role in paving the way for the current peace process between the Arabs and Israel, its contribution throughout the course of this historic process, particularly its strong support for implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and its strenuous efforts to remove the existing obstacles on the Syrian- Israeli track. Add to this the fact that, to a great extent, Egypt is now qualified, with its free-market orientation and the effects of its culture and work force on the Arab world, to play a major role in shaping the region's future under peace. If we put all these things together, we will realize Egypt's regional importance in U.S. strategic thinking at this stage.

As for U.S. thinking on Egypt's international importance, it is enough to mention its standing with the African and nonaligned nations, which are two thirds of the countries of the world, as well as with the Mediterranean states.

If we examine the political, economic, and military aspects of President Clinton's three-day tour of six Middle Eastern states, we will immediately realize that the two cornerstones of U.S. strategy toward the Middle East at present are reaching a comprehensive peace between the Arabs and Israel and securing stability in the Gulf region. It does not take much effort to realize this, for the U.S. President was eager to attend the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, which is an important step toward achieving peace between the Arabs and Israel. The treaty, as the Israeli prime minister has stated, provides an example of the Israeli idea of normalization with Arab states, an example that the United States strongly supports. The U.S. President's trip to Damascus today, despite U.S. reservations on some of Syria's policies, shows the importance of reaching a comprehensive peace between Israel and the Arab states. It does not require much effort to realize that his visit to the U.S. troops in Kuwait and talks in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are an affirmation of the pillars of U.S. policy in the Gulf at this stage.

If the main goal of this quick yet intensive Middle East tour by U.S. President Clinton is to stress the U.S. and the world's vital interests in the Middle East, we must underline two important facts in this regard. The first is that peace serves the interests of all the region's countries, and the second is that the foremost guarantee for U.S. and world interests in the region lies in the need to reconcile these interests with the vital interests of all the peoples in the region on an equal footing.

Opposition to Israel-Jordan Accord Surveyed

LD2610121094 Tehran IRNA in English 1119 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, Oct. 26, IRNA—As American President Bill Clinton began his first visit to the Middle East with a brief stop in Cairo Wednesday, the opposition in Egypt criticized him for his pro-Israeli policies. The spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood (Ikhwan al-Muslimun) in Egypt, Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, said Clinton's visit was to celebrate the victory over the Jordan-Israeli accord.

"This is a visit to celebrate their victory. He visited the tomb of Anwar al-Sadat, the first one to follow their path. Clinton came in the night and left in the morning. He did not meet anybody except President Husni Mubarak," al-Hudaybi told IRNA by phone from Cairo Wednesday.

Clinton visited al-Sadat's tomb soon after his arrival in Cairo last night. He left Egypt for Jordan today morning to attend the signing of the Jordan-Israeli treaty. "The people of Jordan do not accept this treaty to sell their land. This does not speak of good omen," al-Hudaybi added.

The leader of the Islamic-oriented Labour Party in Egypt, Ibrahim Shukri, had proposed to the American embassy and to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry to arrange a meeting of Egyptian opposition leaders with Clinton to inform him on their views about the Middle East and other issues. But no such meetings was arranged.

Egyptian Islamic paper AL-SHA'B said the aim of Clinton's 4-day visit to the Middle East was to "tame Syria, confront Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and to promote the Casablanca economic summit." The main aim of Clinton's visit, noted AL-SHA'B, is to support his "friends and to strengthen the peace process."

"Who are those friends and how will he support them and against whom," asked AL-SHA'B.

The leader of the Liberal Party (al-Ahrar) Mustafa Kamil Murad said the U.S. policy was pro-Israel and called on Clinton to be more just and neutral. After the U.S. has become the economic and military power in the world following the collapse of the Soviet Union its policy has become totally biased towards Israel," he wrote in his party's organ AL-AHRAR. Pointing to the sanctions against Libya and Iraq and the U.S. policy of boycott against Iran, Murad said "the public opinion in Egypt and in the Arab world sees that the U.S. Administration and its policy towards the Arab region are measured in two different measures towards some Arab and Muslim countries."

"We do not demand from the U.S. to change its policy or strategy but we ask it to be more just and neutral towards the Arab and Islamic region," he noted. The leader of the Nasserite party, Zia al-Din Da'ud, criticized the Arab leaders for obeying the U.S. and the Zionist state and lamented that the Arab ummah was living in the worst of times. Da'ud said it was time to return to the "spirit of sacrifice and confrontation to realize our dreams of liberation."

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The Nasserite paper AL-ARABI in a front-page comment on Clinton's visit noted that "the picture of the U.S. in the public opinion of the Middle East is an old picture of the cowboy who deals with the logic of force, hunter in his hand and the pistol in his holster."

Somali Envoy Meets Musa, Conveys Aidid Message

NC2510155894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met Mohamed Warismah, adviser to General Mohamed Aidid, who is currently visiting Cairo.

The Somali official said he gave the foreign minister a message for President Husni Mubarak from Gen. Aidid on developments in Somalia. He thanked the Egyptian president, Government, and people for their support of Somalia and for helping Somalia find a solution to its problem.

He added that he briefed Musa on developments in Somalia and that they held useful discussions. He said Somalia relies on Egypt's effort to resolve the issue and achieve Somalia's sovereignty. He noted that Somalia stresses the importance of the United Nations' role in this phase and that the UN troops will remain in Somalia. He expressed the belief that the conditions in Somalia are conducive to national reconciliation. He said consultations are now under way among the Somali factions and that a government is expected to be formed by late November.

Cabinet Amends Laws To Further Democracy

NC2710202794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi presided over a cabinet meeting today that discussed a number of domestic and foreign policies. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa submitted a report to the cabinet on the results of U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to Egypt and his talks with President Mubarak. The report included a general review of the course of the Middle East peace process.

During the meeting, the cabinet approved amendments to some important laws pertaining to political activity, particularly those related to democratic practices, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated. He added that President Mubarak had reviewed these amendments during meetings held in the past few weeks and instructed the government to draft them. The amendments, he added, are in line with President Mubarak's eagerness to implement the recommendations of the National Dialogue Congress and to consolidate the march of democracy. The amendments include the abrogation of the law for the protection of the internal front and social peace and any reference to this law wherever its exists; the abrogation of all articles of the ethics law, which relates to political activity and democratic practices; and the modification of the law organizing the imposition of sequestration and securing the safety of people.

The information minister added that the cabinet also had approved amendments to some articles of Law 73 of the year 1956 on practicing political rights. It was one of the main subjects debated at the National Dialogue Congress. The amendments relate to registration in the election lists and rules organizing voting, giving the maximum guarantees to safeguard elections.

The information minister added that the cabinet had reviewed foreign developments in light of the foreign minister's report. The cabinet stressed that the Jordanian-Israeli treaty constitutes a positive step toward achieving a comprehensive peace in the region. The foreign minister's report included a review of Presidents Mubarak and Clinton's talks on giving momentum to the peace process and consolidating bilateral cooperation between Egypt and the United States. The report also included a comprehensive study of the regional economic conference to be held in Casablanca on Sunday. On the premise that Arabs must be represented at the conference, the cabinet affirmed that Egypt will participate in the conference, which will sketch an economic plan for the Middle East in the coming stage.

Minister al-Sharif added that during the meeting the cabinet reviewed a report submitted by the interior minister on the security efforts for an all-out confrontation with terrorist elements, the efforts leading to the arrest of the assailants who attempted to assassinate writer Najib Mahfuz, and the intensive measures to arrest the dangerous members of the military wing of the terrorist groups in al-Minya. The interior minister emphasized that efforts will continue to strike at terrorists, follow up on terrorist leaders abroad, and thoroughly monitor all ports of entry.

Education Minister on Curricula, Extremism

NC2510180494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1642 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—Education Minister Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din has noted that Egypt is a sovereign state and it has received no instructions from any state to amend its education curricula. He added: We will let no power impose any instructions on us that contradict our principles, religion, or traditions.

He lauded the police in their efforts to decisively confront the danger of terrorism. He said the ministry is anxious to confront the sources of terrorism and said: We will not allow terrorism to control the youths' minds. These extremists have no place in education.

The education minister made these remarks at a meeting he held today with students of the Economics and Political Sciences College. The meeting was run by

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college Dean Dr. 'Ali-al-Din Hilal and attended by Cairo University President Dr. Mufid Shihab.

Dr. Baha'-al-Din said the ministry recently purged libraries of books that incite extremism and terrorism through a national committee empowered to decide what library books are fit for the various age groups. He added that the ministry is eager to introduce developed technology into the libraries.

He said the Education Ministry will this year set up libraries in secondary schools nationwide, in one school in each city and two schools in each governorate capital. These libraries, he added, will be linked with the network of the Higher Council of Universities, which is connected with the international network.

Writers Speak Out on Extremism, Mahfuz Attack

NC2710111594

[FBIS Editorial Report] Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic, in its 21 October issue, carries several stories and comments about the recent assassination attempt on the noted author Najib Mahfuz. Along with the factual reports on the attack and the arrest of the attackers and the expressions of outrage and condemnation of the attack on the 1988 Nobel prize winner, the articles are full of direct and implied criticism of "terrorism" and the "misguided band that inculcated corruption and black ideas in the minds of misguided youths." There are several critical references to the Muslim Brotherhood and some well-known preachers and at least one article takes issue with the government-controlled education system and audiovisual media for creating an atmosphere conducive to such attacks.

The magazine's chief editor, Makram Muhammad Ahmad, writes that Mahfuz' assailants chose to try to assassinate him on the anniversary of his winning the Nobel prize for literature to obtain maximum media coverage and to "prove to the world that the terrorist groups still have the initiative despite the Egyptian security forces' successes."

In his usual opening article on pages 5 and 6, Makram Muhammad Ahmad says: "A group of hypocrites, waiting by the roadside in the hope of catching falling ripe fruit, do not openly and clearly state religion's opinion on vile crimes, which Islam punishes by 'crucifying people upside down'." He says: They "remain silent, search for excuses, or wait to see which way the wind is blowing when an incident occurs. After that they issue a hypocritical statement in the name of the 'Moderate [Muslim] Brotherhood,' a statement that is not worth the paper on which it is written."

The chief editor backs Mahfuz' warning that "Islam is in danger" and states that there can be no salvation for the country "unless every citizen becomes aware of the role he must play, every official knows the duty he must carry out, and every cultured person realizes that danger is imminent."

He asks: "What are we to expect after they tried to slit Najib Mahfuz' throat with a knife?"

He continues: "In Algeria, in the name of Islam, they slit the throats of 85 litterateurs, judges, thinkers, and writers so that the remnants of the learned elite might fall mute and the silence of the grave prevail in society. Only their perjurious clamor will be heard then. Will Egypt become another Algeria?!"

Noting the differences between the Algerian and Egyptian situations, Ahmad concludes his 1,500-word article by declaring: "The facts show that the Egyptian security forces have virtually destroyed the organizational structure of most of these groups and captured most of their leaders inside the country and abroad. More vitally, the security forces are pursuing their remnants to the very last man. The best proof is the speed with which the culprits [in Mahfuz' case] were caught."

A brief, unattributed report, with comment, on page 25 entitled "An Irresolute Stance by the Brotherhood" reads: "An official source of the banned Muslim Brotherhood has stated that the Brotherhood members are aghast at what happened to litterateur Majib Mahfuz. They denounce and condemn any aggression by any party or source against innocent people or against Egypt's security and stability and the security of its sons. It is clear that the Brotherhood's statement, appearing in the form of a press release, does not specify who the Brotherhood is condemning for the crime and actually speaks in general terms. The statement also calls for a dialogue without explaining what type of dialogue it should be or in what context. They did not directly condemn the culprit, now known, nor those who stand behind him. They did not even consider the action a crime."

A 3,500-word article on pages 64 and 65 by Raja' al-Naqqash entitled "Speak Out, O Our Shaykh al-Ghazali. Speak Out O Shaykh Kishk" defends the Islamic credentials of Najib Mahfuz. The writer notes that both his values and his style have been influenced by the Koran and says that his controversial novel "The Children of Gabalawi" does not prove that he is an atheist, as some people claim. She denies that the character of Gabalawi in the story represents God. She calls on well-known Islamic preachers Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali and 'Abd-al-Hamid Kishk, early opponents of "The Children of Gabalawi," to speak out before "youthful extremists" threaten "every writer and thinker."

The article's writer recalls that al-Ghazali described "The Children of Gabalawi" as a book "against religion and a novel demonstrating disbelief and atheism." She notes that 'Abd-al-Hamid Kishk delivered sermons in the mosques against the novel and published a book about it branding it and its author with disbelief. She also points out that Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman issued a religious ruling [fatwa] branding Najib Mahfuz "as an unbeliever, permitting the shedding of his blood."

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A 600-word article on page 25 titled "Who Stabbed Najib Mahfuz?" by Baha' Tahir begins: "It was not only the barbaric hand of terrorism that was stretched out in malice at the throat of the distinguished and beloved author Najib Mahfuz. Many other blood-covered hands, which formerly stabbed Egypt in the back, joined with the guilty hand in the recent treacherous stabbing."

The writer says that Mahfuz was stabbed by "a corrupt educational system that permits semi-ignoramuses to graduate from schools and universities" and by "an intellectual climate in which we have been living for the past 25 years at least, beginning with the time the authorities and their official writers freed themselves to show contempt for the intelligentsia and to brand the government's opponents collectively as traitors, atheists, and disbelievers."

He adds that Mahfuz was stabbed by "the opposition newspapers who have for years practically advocated terrorism" and who "praise the slaughter groups in Algeria and the dark regimes in Iran and Sudan."

The writer says that Mahfuz was also stabbed by "the government's press, radio, and television, which lost their minds and began to act in a confused manner, defending enlightenment, democratic values, and humanist culture while undermining the foundations of the secular state by publishing and broadcasting a backward concept of religion and by allowing loud pens and voices to make a spirited defense of the religious state."

Tahir concludes by suggesting that Najib Mahfuz was also stabbed by "the conflicting fatwas issued by official religious circles, sometimes enlightened and progressive and at other times stagnant and backward."

Unidentified Assailants Kill Policeman

NC2710151294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—A policeman from the Dayrut Police Station, Upper Egypt, was martyred and a policeman and a citizen wounded when unidentified assailants last night fired at the Dayrut Umm Nakhlah Police Station, which is affiliated with the Mallawi Police Force. The assailants escaped.

A responsible security source at the Interior Ministry has stated that at approximately 2130 last night unidentified assailants opened fire at the police station. The policemen standing guard at the station returned the fire but the assailants fled to the nearby fields. Policeman Salah al-Daramalli was martyred and policeman Salah Salih al-Laythi and citizen Fu'ad Manna' Khudayr, who lives in the neighborhood, were wounded and taken to the Mallawi General Hospital for treatment. The policemen standing guard at the (Dawrah) police station in Mallawi, which is near the scene of the incident, opened fire, anticipating an attack, when they heard the exchange of fire.

Leading security, investigation, and laboratory officials arrived at the scene to conduct an examination. The police are continuing the effort to arrest the assailants. The prosecution office has been notified to open an investigation.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Praises Shiite Steadfastness

LD2610171794 Tehran IRNA in English 1614 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA—Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli Wednesday [26 October] urged Muslims to form a united Islamic front to safeguard the honor and sanctities of Islam and the holy Koran.

Speaking with Iranian ambassador to Libya, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri- Shahrudi, the Libyan leader said, "a savage attack of the West against Islam is taking place. In confronting this barbaric assault the Muslims can only rely on Islam."

The Libyan leader further told the Iranian diplomat that the Islamic Republic of Iran following the Shiite school of thought has been able to bravely resist all international plots and conspiracies of the world arrogance.

He also added that at the time when Arab leaders one after another in complete humiliation are bowing to the Zionist regime, the Shiite Muslim Hezbollah in southern Lebanon are bravely standing against expansionism and illegitimate interests and usurping actions of the Zionist regime.

The Iranian diplomat said that the renewed dispatch of American troops to the sensitive region of the Persian Gulf is strongly condemned by Iran.

The West by its latest move clearly illustrated that when its illegitimate interests are at stake they have no respect for international laws and principles and easily violate them.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Shahrudi also called for further expansion of Tehran-Tripoli ties and said that commitment of the two countries to the cause of the oppressed Muslims of Palestine and their joint campaign against imperialism has bound Iran and Libya together.

UN Delegation Declares Opposition to 'Terrorism'

LD2710201094 Tripoli JANA in English 1831 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, al Timour [Oct] 27, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Libya's delegation called on the United Nations legal committee to hold an international conference under the supervision of the United Nations to provide a definition of terrorism, to discover its antecedents, to find ways of

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deterring terrorists, and to differentiate between terrorism and the rights of the people for self-determination and the struggle of the national liberation organisations.

In its speech during the negotiation of the special clause related to terrorism, Libya's delegation said that in the absence of a clear definition of international terrorism and the confusion between this term and the people's right to self-determination and the struggle for liberation, it has become very easy to use this definition as a weapon to harm many countries who are supporting justified popular struggles to achieve their independence and self-determination.

The delegation reiterated the Great Jamahariyah's stance against terrorism and said that the Great Jamahariyah declared its condemnation of all forms of terrorism because it is a criminal act targeting innocent people. The delegation asserted that the Great Jamahariyah supports the international community's measures to confront terrorism.

It emphasized that the crisis between the Great Jamahariyah and the western countries is a clear legitimate case according to the Montreal agreement of 1971 indicating that the three western countries refused to implement this agreement. The delegation expressed Libya's eagerness to reveal the facts about the so-called Lockerbie crisis and mentioned that Libya had taken all the necessary measures to assist the inquiry and declared Libya's condemnation of all forms of terrorism.

The Great Jamahariyah's delegation indicated that the civilised way in which the Great Jamahariyah dealt with the crisis had earned the respect of the 11th ministerial conference of the Non-Aligned Movement, the 60th session of the ministerial council of the Organisation of African Unity and the Arab League amd emphasised that the Security Council becomes a tool to realise the aims of the colonialist countries.

The delegation urged the Security Council to look into the accident of the Libyan, Iranian, Korean and Italian aeroplanes, which were downed by American and Israeli aircraft, and resulted in the death of all those on board.

At the end of its speech, the delegation said that if the Security Council was to take its role to confront international terrorism in favour of international security and peace, it should take adequate measures against the American aircraft, which attack the Great Jamahariyah and kill tens of innocent people. This action has been condemned by the General Assembly. [words indistinct]

Day of Mourning Declared for Deportees

LD2610150094 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sorrow reigned over all parts of the Jamahiriyah today in mourning for the thousands of Libyans whom the forces of the Italian colonial invasion exiled from their homes and land and forcibly deported to desolate and infested Italian islands on this day [26 October] in 1911 in the greatest exile and deportation operation witnessed in history until now. [passage omitted]

Postal, telegraph and telephone communications between the Great Jamahiriyah and the outside world were cut off from 0600 [0500 GMT] until 1800 in mourning for the thousands of Libyans exiled by Italy during the colonial period and deported to Italian islands. Also at dawn today all flights of Libyan Arab Airlines were halted as well as all internal and external sea and land conveyances run by public companies and enterprises. They will be halted until 1800 this evening in an expression of deep sorrow at the exiling of more than 5,000 Libyan citizens who were deported by force from their homeland. [passage omitted]

Traffic came to a complete halt at 1200 today 26 October in all streets and squares in the various parts of the Great Jamahiriyah for five minutes. [passage omitted]

'Video-Text' Information Channel Planned

LD2510205694 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The General Broadcasting Authority of the Great Jamahiriyah this evening carried out the final transmission experiments of a new TV channel that works according to the video-text system—the information channel.

This channel will provide viewers with a daily comprehensive information service distributed evenly between political, economic, cultural, and scientific local, Arab, and international news, and headlines from the press and selected leading press articles, as well as the weather forecast and average temperatures in the Great Jamahiriyah cities and the world. The transmission of this channel also includes updated information in the field of services, such as the prices of goods, vegetables, fruit, meat, poultry, and fish in the local markets, and the movement in the commercial ports and the times of departures and sailing of the land, sea, and air transport throughout the Great Jamahiriyah. The informational channel will present within its services information about locations of tourist attractions in the Great Jamahiriyah, and the most well-known historic sites, in addition to postal, phone, and hotel services directories. [passage omitted]

The informational channel will transmit daily for one and half hours—half an hour during the morning will carry information for children. As for its ordinary transmission, this will start at 1630 hours [1530 GMT] beginning the day of its official inauguration, which will be within the next few days. [passage omitted]

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Morocco

King Hassan Urges Solution to Jerusalem Issue

NC2710153594 Paris AFP in English 1501 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Oct 27 (AFP)—King Hassan of Morocco said Thursday [27 October] Jerusalem would never recover its former status and Moslems worldwide must strive to find a solution for the holy city.

"It would be dreaming to believe Jerusalem could recover its former political position...We must not go on living on memories," the king told the Arab daily AL-HAYAH, published here.

"The question of Jerusalem is linked to the Moslems, and their weight is much more important than that of the Arabs alone," the king said, implicitly regretting the dispute between Jordan and the Palestinians over Jerusalem.

The PLO denounced Israel's peace treaty with Jordan signed Wednesday, which recognises a special Jordanian role in administering Moslem shrines in Arab East Jerusalem.

Palestinians claim East Jerusalem, seized by Israel in 1967, as the capital of a future independent state.

"We must all make an effort to reach new solutions, not just one but several, taking account of our historic links with this city," the king said.

"Then the Israelis will have to face more than one billion people worldwide, instead of rivals with weaknesses they are well aware of."

Frustrations in Relations With EU Reviewed

MS2710154894 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 27 Oct 94 p 38

[Article by David White: "There's a Grinding of Teeth in Rabat"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The lack of progress in negotiations for a new and closer relationship with the European Union [EU] has become Morocco's greatest frustration. There is an almost audible grinding of teeth in the government offices of Rabat when the subject is brought up.

Isolated for long periods of its history, Morocco's economic and social aspirations are firmly fixed on the north, across the 14 kilometres that separate the country from continental Europe.

Most of its merchandise trade is already done with the European Union, which accounted last year for 55 per cent of Morocco's imports and 63 per cent of its exports, with the balance heavily in Europe's favour. In some farm products, as much as 90 per cent of Moroccan exports are dependent on the European market. But for Moroccans, relations with the EU are not just a commercial affair, but also a strong political and emotional issue.

Negotiations have stalled on a new "association" or "partnership" agreement (the title being among the more minor of the questions to be settled). Morocco has had a series of commercial and co-operation agreements with the European community over the past 25 years. In 1987, the year after Spain and Portugal became members, it lodged an application to join, in what officials now describe as "a political signal". The application was turned down, with the community clearly unwilling to extend the geographical definition of the EU to the other shore of the Mediterranean.

In 1992 Morocco launched a fresh initiative, seeking exploratory talks on a new kind of agreement. Talks on detailed proposals began late last year, but Morocco was bitterly disappointed in its expectations. In Brussels, the Moroccans are criticised for a naive approach to complex EU procedures and for failing to mount an effective lobbying campaign.

"We do not understand this slowness," complains a government minister in Rabat. Morocco was to have set the model for other countries in their relations with the EU, but it has been overtaken by both Tunisia and Israel, and Egypt is now catching up.

The frustration steams largely from the priority that the EU has given to the countries of eastern and central Europe which are preparing for future accession. The last enlargement, taking in Spain and Portugal, came as a big blow to Moroccan agriculture. Now the attention paid to central Europe has squeezed financial flows to Mediterranean partners. According to EU officials, per capita grants to central Europe are four times those to Morocco.

The officials concede, however, that there are strong economic and social parallels between the two regions and the problems that arise on the EU's periphery. "What you see on the Strait of Gibraltar and on the German-Polish border is strikingly similar: you have illegal trade, illegal migrants and drug traffic."

The future of the talks with the EU has now become linked to settlement of a fishing dispute. Morocco recently set out to halve a previously-agreed level of catches from its waters, claiming they had been overfished. Fishing is essentially a bilateral issue between Morocco and Spain, the country in the front line of Morocco's dealings with Europe. The relationship between the two is dynamic—especially in trade and investment—but also troublesome.

The latest round of Euro-argument coincided with fresh stirrings by the Moroccan authorities over the Spanish enclaves on Morocco's northern shore, Ceuta and Melilla. Morocco is upset by Madrid's unwillingness to set up talks on the future of the territories which have been in Spanish hands for more than 400 years, and

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especially by plans to give the two enclaves new statutes conferring a limited degree of self-rule.

Agricultural problems also have to do primarily with competition with Spain. Morocco's difficulties have increased as a result of the Gatt agreement signed in Marrakesh in April. Moroccan producers of tomatoes, for instance, had invested heavily to supply the European market before minimum reference prices come into force in the spring. But under Gatt terms, the price mechanisms may be applied year-round, mainly to the benefit of the Moroccans' Spanish competitors.

The issue is a vital one for Morocco, where 500,000 people are employed in the farm export sector, with up to three million dependent on it for their livelihood. Moroccan negotiators now have the task of trying to reconcile the Gatt conditions with the country's present agreement with the EU.

Instead of improved access, say officials in Rabat, Morocco now has to fight to safeguard what it already has.

If the two issues of fishing and sensitive farm exports are resolved, the officials say, "we can go ahead on a partnership, but it will fall far short of what we thought in 1992." Ministers have spoken of a "crisis of confidence" between Rabat and Brussels.

However, it is foreseeable that under a revised negotiating mandate the EU may give ground on some of Morocco's requests, possibly including in the proposed agreement a provision for balance-of-payments support.

Moroccan officials see both France and Spain as "objective political allies" aware of the strategic and economic importance of developments in North Africa for the EU itself. "But we find them in our way when it comes to sectorial or regional interests."

According to a EU official, "our current difficulty with Morocco is that because of the economic recession in Europe we are pressed to take into account our short-term interests, which are often in contradiction with our long-term political and economic interests."

Last week the European Commission called on the EU to create a Euro-Mediterranean Economic Area with its North African and Middle East neighbours, thus establishing the world's biggest free trade area.

As Mr Abdellatif Filali, the prime minister and foreign minister, said at a recent journalists' lunch: "The Mediterranean is a lake. Morocco is not the other end of the world."

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GCC Chief on Islands Issue, Policy on Iraq

MM2510130994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Oct 94 p 2

[Interview with Fahim al-Qasimi, GCC secretary general, by Faris al-Salman in Kuwait on 23 October]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Salman] How do you view the problem of the Iranian occupation of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] islands and the recent UAE request that the case be taken to the International Court of Justice?

[Al-Qasimi] That issue has been through numerous developments. The UAE, supported by the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, tried to settle the matter bilaterally but that direct approach produced no results because of the ambiguity of the Iranian position. The UAE wanted to talk about the three islands of al-Tunb al-Kubra, al-Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu-Musa, but Iran only wants to talk about Abu-Musa. So the bilateral efforts were deadlocked. Therefore, the UAE had no alternative but to resort to the civilized way followed by Gulf states (Qatar and Bahrain), Arab states—Tunisia and Libya—and many other world states, namely, referring the matter to the International Court of Justice. That UAE approach is supported by the GCC states.

[Al-Salman] Why does the GCC Secretariat not play a bigger part in this matter, such as talking to Iran, for a start, on the occupation of the three UAE islands?

[Al-Qasimi] The GCC states have laid down the foundations and criteria for the establishment of good relations with Iran?

[Al-Salman] What are they?

[Al-Qasimi] Noninterference in internal affairs, settlement of disputes by peaceful means, and rejection of threats. These are the most important bases and criteria of the GCC policy toward Iran, but the general secretariat had not interfered in the matter because the question of contacts with Iran was previously left to the UAE in the hope that the problem would be solved bilaterally. Now the issue has assumed other dimensions since it was referred to the International Court of Justice.

[Al-Salman] You have mentioned such criteria as good-neighborliness, settlement of disputes by peaceful means, and noninterference in internal affairs. How, in your view, could that be effectively implemented between the states of the region and Iran?

[Al-Qasimi] At present, these foundations are nonexistent because there is a real Iranian occupation. The occupation must end, then we can talk about normal relations between Iran and the Gulf states. As you know, Iran is a neighboring state and a Muslim state, and we are interested in establishing good relations with it, but the occupation prevents that.

[Al-Salman] How do you view the arms race in the Middle East?

[Al-Qasimi] We are not against any state having defensive weapons. All states have a right to possess arms, but within the limits that would enable them to defend themselves and their entities. But if such weapons pose a threat to the GCC states then we would oppose that, particularly if there was an intention to possess arms of mass destruction or related technology whether in Iran, Israel, or any state neighboring the Gulf.

[Al-Salman] There are those who advocate military parity in the region. How do you view that?

[Al-Qasimi] We do not want to enter into a process of amassing troops and arms as in the case of the cold war, when there was gigantic squandering of efforts. These efforts and funds should have been used for the development and progress of nations. The Gulf states hope efforts will be geared to development, particularly as economic power is the real power these days.

[Al-Salman] The Iraqi regime has been in the habit of violating treaties and charters. This is a fact known not only to the states of the region but to the whole world. Do you believe that the lack of trust would in the future become an incentive to change the situation in Iraq?

[Al-Qasimi] Experience has repeatedly shown that the Iraqi regime does not abide by agreements. Take, for instance, the 1975 agreement with Iran and the treaties with the Arab states. These instances and his recent concentrations aimed against the state of Kuwait all show it breaking promises it had previously made. No promises by the Iraqi regime should be accepted without a guarantee from an international organization—from the United Nations, that is. If the Iraqi regime is to be allowed to deal with the Arab states and the whole world, it must implement the UN Security Council resolutions and should not make preconditions or link implementation of these resolutions to the lifting of the embargo. Implementation of the resolutions is one thing and lifting the embargo is quite another. Some foreign and Arab papers have been echoing what the Iraqi regime has been saying, namely that the Iraqi people are suffering as a result of the embargo, but who is responsible for that embargo?

There are resolutions which allow Iraq to import food and medicines, but the regime does not want to do that and is trying to convince the world that the United Nations [as published] is dictating the embargo. That regime must be treated firmly until it complies with all the Security Council resolutions.

[Al-Salman] How do you view Iraq's immediate future?

[Al-Qasimi] Only God knows the future, and we beseech God to help the fraternal Iraqi people overcome this plight.

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[Al-Salman] Do you believe that the Iraqi regime will heed the coalition forces' warnings against reinforcement of Iraqi ground forces south of the 32d parallel?

[Al-Qasimi] That is one of the measures which should be taken by the Security Council to increase pressure on the Iraqi regime to prevent it threatening its neighbors. As the Iraqi regime is the source of the provocations, it must bear the consequences of those provocations.

Oman

Media Cooperation Minutes Signed With Iran

JN2510163494 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The minutes of the two rounds of talks held by the Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Iran were signed at the end of the second round of talks. The minutes were signed for the Omani side by Information Minister 'Abd-al'Aziz Muhammad al-Rawwas and for the Iranian side by Dr. 'Ali Larijani, head of the Iranian Radio and Television Corporation.

Following the signing of the minutes, His Excellency 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad al-Rawwas stressed the profound historical relations, the good neighborly ties, and the common principles upheld by the Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Iran—principles which underline the true desire of both countries and leaderships to achieve lasting stability and true cooperation between our two countries and our two nations in order to attain prosperity and stability.

His excellency praised the results of his talks with his excellency the head of the Iranian Radio and Television Corporation, expressing hope that the two sides will hold other meetings in the future. He added that this cooperation is aimed at enhancing our causes and our stability without relinquishing the interests of others.

For his part, His Excellency Dr. 'Ali Larijani, head of the Iranian Radio and Television Corporation, praised his talks with his excellency the information minister, pointing out that the signing of the minutes of the two rounds of talks falls within the existing cultural cooperation between the two countries, constitutes a new page for strong relations between the Sulanate of Oman and Iran, and is sufficient groundwork for cooperation in all areas.

The Iranian official added: During my meeting with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and other officials in the sultanate, I sensed a spirit of understanding and a desire to find common ground for promoting our relations. He said that the message sent by the Iranian president to his majesty the sultan proves that.

The Omani News Agency has learned that the minutes of the talks signed between the sultanate and Iran include issues of media cooperation such as exchanging news reports and documents, cooperation in the press field through exchanging press delegations on national occasions, cooperation in training programs for media employees, and technical cooperation.

The talks were attended on the Omani side by 'Ali Bin-Ahmad al-'Usari, Information Ministry under secretary for administrative and financial affairs; Hamad Bin-Muhammad al-Rawashidi, Information Ministry under secretary for information affairs; Sa'ud Bin-Salim al-'Ansi, head of the information department at the Foreign Ministry; and several officials. On the Iranian side, the talks were attended by Mahdi Ahmadi, deputy head of the Iranian Radio and Television Corporation for technical affairs; (Ramin Mabhuman Bross), director general of the cultural department at the Foreign Ministry; and the Iranian charge d'affaires in the sultanate.

Saudi Arabia

Opposition Leader on King Fahd's Health

BR2510140294 Milan L'EUROPEO in Italian 26 Oct 94 pp 64-66

[Report on interview with Muhammad al-Masari, spokesman for the Saudi Legitimate Rights Defense Committee, by Alessandra Garusi in London; date not given: "Beware of This Man; He Makes Riyadh Quake With His Fax Machine"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "By the end of 1995 King Fahd of Arabia will no longer be on the throne." This prophecy was made by Muhammad al-Masari, former professor of physics at Riyadh's King Sa'ud University, and now spokesman, in exile in London, for the Legitimate Rights Defense Committee.

Founded in Saudi Arabia in May 1993, this committee is a real thorn in the flesh of Riyadh's authoritarian regime. Its promoters, a group of some 50 university teachers, judges, and lawyers, were almost all arrested immediately, on no specific charges. None has yet been brought to trial. Some have been tortured.

Of democratic, but also fundamentalist, inspiration, the tiny committee, now reduced to the only three people that managed to escape to London, succeeds in irritating the Saudi sovereigns with its only weapon—the thousands of faxes that it sends to Saudi Arabia from Britain. Of course, the regime cannot monitor all the telephone lines. So these sheets, which recount instances of government corruption, incompetence, and repression circulate in Riyadh and are photocopied in large numbers.

These may be mere goads, but the very poor state of health of King Fahd, who is now over 70, the uncertain struggle for succession (the Saudi ruling family is sharply split,) and the virtual bankruptcy of Saudi's finances constitute an explosive mixture ready to blow up. Will the spark bear the name of Muhammad al-Masari?

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"After the end of the Gulf War, in May 1991, and then in a document in May 1992," the professor told L'EUROPEO, "we called for an end to arbitrary arrests and torture, and for the launching of some democratic reforms. The response was a dragnet that began at my home, in the middle of the night, in May 1993. I was taken away by force, I was beaten all over, but especially on the soles of my feet, then I was thrown into a cell. I remained in complete isolation for six months."

In November 1993 he was unexpectedly released: "I signed a document in which I pledged to refrain from any political activity. But as soon as I could I escaped to London." How did he manage that, if his passport had been withdrawn and he was under surveillance by Saudi agents? He preferred not to answer, "because that channel could be used again, by others."

Be that as it may, reprisals ensued immediately: On 23 May this year, just three days after his escape, the Saudi authorities arrested his 19-year-old son Anmar, who is still being held at a secret location. And from the Interior Ministry in Riyadh, Amir Nayif, the king's brother and one of the pretenders to the throne, issued the following order: "Kill al-Masari at the 7 August Islamic conference at Wembley stadium, and then blame it on an extremist group." But the intelligence service of the Saudi Embassy in London, to which the order was addressed, objected: "Such an action would have a devastating effect on our country's image."

Strikes and Arrests in Saudi Capital

According to al-Masari, the regime also tried other ways of eliminating him. One of them led to Switzerland, Geneva and Zurich, where, on 14 and 27 June, respectively, two summit meetings of Saudi and Israeli intelligence agents were supposed to have been held. "They asked Mossad for some advice on how to eliminate the opposition," al-Masari suggested, "but that is a difficult task, because as soon as they fill one crack, another opens up."

While Riyadh was being shaken by a tide of demonstrations, strikes, and arrests, in mid-June two prominent figures defected to the United States—34-year-old Ahmad Zakrany, deputy consul in Houston, and 31-year-old Muhammad al-Khilewi, first secretary at the permanent mission to the United Nations. The latter left with 14,000 confidential documents highly compromising to the Saudi regime: They record instances ranging from discrimination against minorities to terrorist attacks on Jews, to widespread corruption. Al-Khilewi requested, and was granted, political asylum in the United States on 28 August 1994. Zakrany would like to stay in London, however, where he is in hiding pending a court ruling.

Al-Masari and the third exile in London (Sa'd al-Faqih, a medic who came to Britain on the pretext of attending a conference) manage to achieve a great deal: Indeed, their weekly newsletter reaches the main news agencies (REUTERS, ASSOCIATED PRESS, FRANCE PRESSE) and 10,000 readers in Saudi Arabia. "This is a slap in the fat face of King Fahd, who had just succeeded in limiting to some extent satellite television broadcasts to the Middle Eastern area," al-Masari commented.

Indeed, the 20,000 satellites, which sprang up like daisies in Saudi Arabia during the first months of the Gulf War, were outlawed last June by a ministerial decree and disabled within the space of a month. "Soon we will have other satellites, but ones that respect our religion and our values," Interior Minister Nayif promised. He will decide which. Just as it is he who controls Saudi Arabia's only press agency, SPA, the Saudi Press Agency.

King Fahd No Longer So Friendly With Clinton

So King Fahd thought he had silenced the media... "In fact information is still appearing, via London," al-Masari said, "especially that concerning his health: The most worrying thing is not his heart, though he did suffer a minor attack recently, but his head." Indeed, for the past year and a half the king has apparently been unable to put two coherent sentences together. "He is dying, if not actually dead already," according to one Iranian agency. Be that as it may, the Saudi king was alive and arrogant four weeks ago when a high-level American delegation met with him in Riyadh. In response to their ultimatum—"Either you launch some reforms by November or you could meet the same fate as the shah of Persia"—he shouted: "You do not know my people; I do."

Relations between the two countries have therefore become tense during the Clinton era: King Fahd is not America's best friend (or best agent), as he was during the George Bush era. Indeed, the very fact that he financed the Republican Party's campaign so openly profoundly offended the Democrats.

Moreover, King Fahd has recently committed another considerable error: He failed to take the advice of the American CIA experts in connection with the Yemeni crisis. And now he has a hotbed of war in the South, as well as Saddam Husayn in the North.

But the most worrying factor is the disastrous economic situation: According to American sources, the Saudi debt is some $100-120 billion. "It has already exceeded $200 billion," according to the intelligence service of the United Arab Emirates, which are also on the brink of bankruptcy.

"Whatever the facts of the matter, as long as King Fahd remains on that throne there can be no recovery," al-Masari said. "In these past three weeks alone $10 million has left the country, for the security of Swiss banks." In other words, the Al Sa'uds are preparing for the worst: "But they will only leave after a bloodbath, and when there really are no spoils left to share."

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Italian Assembly Ruling Party Deputy Visits Says Italy Supports Lifting Blockade

JN2710220794 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct, 27, INA—Italian M.P. Alessandro Melotsi [name as received], also member of the Italian leading party said his country would support any French, Russian and Chinese move for lifting the blockade on Iraq. He added that peace, which the U.S. sought to achieve, would not be realized unless sanctions were lifted and Iraq resumed it normal role in the region.

In a statement to AL-THAWRAH daily today the Italian MP said the United States should start changing its hostile policy towards Iraq. He pointed out that the blockade, which Washington insisted on maintaining, was badly affecting the people there.

Mr. Melosi stressed that he would inform, prime minister Silvio Berlusconi and all parties of the Italian Parliament, on the painful conditions suffered by patients in Iraqi hospitals as result to the acute shortages in medicine and equipment.

He added that the would demand all parties and government to work for lifting the blockade and sending urgent medical aid to Iraq.

He described relations between Iraq and Italy as deep-rooted, expressing hope in restoring normal relations between the two countries soon.

Meets Vice President

JN2710200094 Baghdad INA in English 1410 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 27, INA—Vice-President Taha Yasin Ramadan today has received the Italian Parliamentarian and Chairman of Foreign Relations in the movement of Forward Italy Alessandro Milotsi [name and title as received].

The Italian guest conveyed greetings to President Saddam Husayn from Italy's Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and confirmation of Italy's keenness on its developed relations with Iraq.

He said Italy would work for lifting the blockade against Iraq and would take independent stances in its foreign policy and international attitudes away from American hegemony.

Mr. Ramadan has asked Mr. Milotsi to convey President Saddam Husayn's greetings to the Italian prime minister and his appreciation for any independent attitude free from American hegemony and its colonialist policy in service of human principles and in achievements of continued justice and cooperation between nations.

Mr. Ramadan has also emphasised in the meeting that America itself is the party violating the Security Council resolutions and disrespecting the U.N. charters and that Iraq has committed itself to resolutions of the Security Council despite of their injustice.

Mr. Ramadan has also pointed out that both American and British Administrations are controlling the Security Council politics and preventing importation of food and medicine and necessary requirements of life through their domination over the sanctions committee.

Chairman of the foreign relations committee at Forward Italy Movement has stressed that the world public opinion is feeling suffering of the Iraqi people because of the continued unjust blockade against it and confirmed escalation of official and popular attitudes with regard to lifting the blockade against Iraq following the disclosure that the American hostile policy is aimed at realizing its interests in the region.

Confers With 'Aziz

JN2710220694 Baghdad INA in English 1415 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 27, INA—Mr. Tariq 'Aziz the deputy prime minister has affirmed Iraq's keeness and desire to resume bilateral relations with Italy and their return to their previous nature in realization of interests of the two countries and peoples.

That came during Mr. 'Aziz receiving of Mr. Alessandro Milotsi, the Italian Parliamentarian and chairman of Foreign Relations of Forward Italy Movement [name and title as received]

Mr. Milotis expressed hope that in lifting the blockade against the people of Iraq and pointed to the inhumane painful suffering resulting from the shortage of food and medicine and other necessary materials.

The Government TV Channel ha conducted an interview with Mr. Tariq 'Aziz in which he spoke about the traditional relations which were linking Iraq and Italy and the desire in its return. He had also talked about Iraq's relation with the Security Council and calling for lifting the unjust blockade after Iraq had fulfilled the obligations imposed on it.

Former French Defense Minister Chevenement Visits

Received by Assembly Speaker

JN2710191994 Baghdad INA in English 1300 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct, INA—Speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly Sa'di Mahdi Salih has today received the French former Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement, member of the French Parliament.

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Mr. Salih has in the name of representatives of the people expressed high appreciated for Mr. Chevenement's principled attitude which had been characterized by full support to the people of Iraq in facing the aggression and the blockade.

Speaker of the National Assembly has reviewed during the meeting the great suffering of the people of Iraq owing to continuation of the unjust blockade which claimed lives of thousands of children, elderly people and women because of the sharp shortage of foodstuffs and medicine.

Mr. Salih has also pointed out that Iraq has fulfilled its obligations towards the U.N. Security Council resolutions and that the latter should rise to its pledges to lift this blockade.

He has further confirmed that the United States has been insisting on inflicting harm on the Iraqi people through its sticking to impose the blockade and preventing importation of food and medicine and essential requirements of life and hindering every step taken towards easing suffering the people of Iraq.

Mr. Jean-Pierre Chevenement has on his part expressed pleasure for his visit to Iraq which he described as aiming at getting acquainted with impact of the blockade on the Iraqi people and possibility of mitigating the negative consequences resulting from maintaining the blockade.

He has further said that he conducted contacts with a number of French officials before heading for Iraq with the aim of contributing to easing suffering of the people of Iraq and that he would work hard in that direction.

Mr. Salih has presented a gift in the name of the people representative to the French former defence minister in the form of a small carpet bearing former defence minister in the form of a small carpet bearing emblem of the Iraqi National Assembly and a relief picture representing the god of the sun offering laws to Hamourabi who is considered the first legislator of laws in history of human civilization.

The French former defence minister has said that in order to give judgment on the latest escalation against Iraq we have to take into accurate consideration the developments our world is seeing at the complicated data created by the Soviet Union dismantle and termination of the Cold War.

In response to a question from INA correspondent today, Mr. Chevenement said Iraq had fully fulfilled its commitments towards Resolution 687 and its obligation to international resolutions contributes for sure in supporting peace and stability in this vital region of which it is a significant and essential part. He stressed meanwhile that in the light of such attitude the U.N. Security Council must abide on its part by its pledges provided in the resolution.

On the hand, the former French minister who is visiting Iraq now in his capacity as member of the French Parliament emphasised that France has its vital political and economic interests in the region and its respect, through a comprehensive humanitarian vision, Iraq's option to become among advanced countries in economic, social and cultural areas because by that it would contribute by the spread of prosperity in the entire region and pointed out that France, through this vision, must shoulder its role in backing Iraq to achieve this option in the way benefitting the two countries.

Mr. Chevenement has also said that we are at a time approaching the date when blockade on Iraq should be lifted and the big suffering of the people of Iraq removed in order to participates in developing their country economically and humanly and in the way causing goodness to the region.

In conclusion of his interview, Mr. Chevenement stressed that he is faithful friend to Iraq and that "I know this deep-rooted country since my first visit 20 years before," pointing out that he has visited Iraq on four occasion and greatly sympathizing with Iraq and its people.

Received by Industry Minister

JN2710192094 Baghdad INA in English 1420 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 27, INA—General Husayn Kamil Hasan minister of industry and minerals and superviser on Military Industry Commission today has received the visiting former French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement.

The minister has praised during the meeting the French positive stances towards Iraq and particularly those of Mr. Chevenement during the U.S.-led aggression on Iraq and confirmed the importance of activating the relations between the two countries for interests of their two peoples.

The industry minister has clarified that the Iraqis have been doing their best in building the broad industrial base on various sectors so that to secure the citizens needs and ease impact of the blockade imposed on Iraq. He added that Iraq is a rich country with its resources and wealth and had employed all its energies to become a productive country and endeavouring for development and that is why it has always been working for granting friends chances of constructive and fruitful cooperation on the road of joint Interests.

Mr. Chevenement has expressed readiness for investing his potentials to contributing to lift the blockade against the people of Iraq through his influence and political relations.

The former French minister has pointed to the significance of conveying Iraq's approach of scientific development in the area of construction and progress and also

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suffering of the people of Iraq out of the blockade which has lost all its justifications to the world public opinion in order to refute allegations of hostile media trying to draw a dark picture of Iraq.

Meets With Foreign Minister

JN2710212594 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf today received former French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement.

During the meeting, the foreign minister spoke about the prospects of cooperation between Iraq and France and means of promoting it. He also explained the just Iraqi stands which necessitate that the UN Security Council lift the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq since it has implemented all its obligations enshrined in Resolution 687, particularly the obligations pertaining to the implementation of Paragraph 22 of the aforementioned resolution.

Chevenement expressed deep understanding of Iraq's just stands and the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the unjust blockade clamped on them. He also expressed determination to continue work against the blockade and to serve and promote the Iraqi-French relations.

The two sides exchanged viewpoints on the means to reinforce the international efforts, and on what France can do to expedite the lifting of the unjust blockade on Iraq.

Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Duri attended the meeting.

'Foreign Buildup' Said Unable To Provide Security

JN2710221294 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 27, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily has said that security and stability in the region can neither be established by the foreign buildups, fleets and aircraft carriers nor by the arms race but by planting the mutual confidence and solving the pending problems through the dialogue.

In its today article, the daily added that Iraq was not an emirate or a small state, but it is a well-known state by its weight, history and leadership and it has the major role in creating equilibrium in the region.

It made it clear that the deviate policy being pursued by the rulers of Kuwait would never resolve the problems but it rather complicates them and exacerbates the situation.

Washington Said Seeking To Depose Saudi King

JN2310095594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that there is no doubt that Fahd will be toppled, and that it is only a matter of time before he is removed from the helm of power in Saudi Arabia.

In an article published today, the paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds: Washington, which has decided to remove Fahd from power, needs some time to put the Saudi house in order so as to avert serious dangers that it cannot cope with.

The paper goes on to say: Recent developments, including the crisis fabricated by Washington to justify a new aggression against Iraq, have shown the embarrassing and fragile situation of the Saudi dynasty. Worse still, there is increasing popular discontent in Saudi Arabia, not to mention the emergence of a vocal opposition to the Saudi regime.

The paper explains that Washington wants Fahd to act as a scapegoat for the Saudi dynasty, whose record is replete with treason and conspiracies against the Arab nation and its resources.

The paper notes that the popular discontent in Saudi Arabia has reached serious proportions as a result of economic deterioration, mismanagement, corruption, and the constant waste of oil revenues, not to mention the aggravated concerns over the continuation of the U.S. military presence on Saudi territory and the high costs entailed.

The paper says that toppling Fahd and removing him from power is merely an attempt to absorb popular indignation and shuffle the cards to distract the opposition's attention from its main task, which is to topple the entire Saudi dynasty, which has become a stigma dishonoring the people of the Arabian Peninsula.

The paper concludes by saying that removing Fahd from the helm of power will benefit the Saudi dynasty. As a matter of fact, the paper argues, this will only provide tangible evidence of the crisis plaguing this dynasty—the crisis that will result in toppling the entire dynasty and ridding the Arabs and Muslims of its sins and evils.

Minister Urges UN To Facilitate Food Purchases

JN2310180894 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct. 23, INA—Iraq's trade minister has called upon the UN to facilitate his country's purchase of food and medicine. He stressed the need to allow Iraq to conclude deals away from interference in internal affairs.

Dr. Muhammed Mahdi Salih was speaking during a symposium held by AL-JUMHURIYAH Centre for International Studies on Wednesday to discuss the impact of the economic embargo on human rights, public health and environment in Iraq.

The minister said Iraq has been allowed under para 20 of (Security Council) Resolution 687 to use frozen assets in foreign banks to cover purchases of foodstuff and medicine.

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However, he said, Iraq has been deprived of the use of para 20 when Resolutions 706 and 712 were issued. The two resolutions, adopted under pressure from the U.S. and Britain, were meant to achieve political aims by the two powers to impose guardianship on the people of Iraq and undermine the sovereignty of their country, Dr. Salih explained.

He went on to say that 706 and 712 included humiliating conditions as they involved measures that conflict with humanitarian and legal values. Of these measures is the one which demands Iraq to allow the presence on its soil of 33 observers, selected by the Sanctions Committee, who would supervise the distribution of food in all Iraqi provinces.

The trade minister said the government has managed over four years of the most rigid economic embargo to meet a major part of the people's needs of foodstuff.

Dr. Salih added that the ration card system has covered not only the population but also foreigners including diplomats and their families.

The minister said those who masterminded Resolutions 706 and 712 have in practice nullified the role of UN agencies working in Iraq and which have not detected any discrimination in the supply of food to the population. Why the insistence on sending foreign observers to check the distribution of food in Iraq and not, for instance, ask the staff of the UN agencies working here to do the job? wondered the minister.

Commenting on the proposed sale of a 1.6 billion dollar worth of Iraqi oil to finance the purchase of food, Dr. Salih said the 900 million dollars or so that was to be set aside for the import of food and medicine to Iraq would meet only a small part of the actual needs.

The trade minister stressed that Iraq does not want charity aid. It has the money, some 3.5 billion dollars, but this money is in foreign banks, he said, calling for further negotiations to facilitate the implementation of Resolution 706 without any infringement on Iraq's sovereignty.

The minister criticized the UN Sanctions Committee for the recent interruption of the last shipment (300 thousand tons) of a rice deal with Thailand. This action, said the minister, has led to a shortage of the basic commodity and, consequently, a drop in the amount of rice supplied within the ration card system.

The AL-JUMHURIYAH symposium, held under theme "Human Rights in Iraq Under the Embargo", covered topics like the international law's view of the continuation of the embargo on Iraq, the impact of the embargo on public health and childhood as well as efforts made by UN agencies in Iraq to alleviate the plight of children and to ease the effects of the embargo on public health and the environment.

The first to address the symposium was Mr. Basil Yusuf who reviewed the systematic policy of genocide against Iraq led by the United States inside the Security Council. He said the coalition states have used the UN council as a cover to bring the population of Iraq to a state of starvation which is in violation of the most basic human rights.

The speaker cited rules of international law that prohibit any party from depriving a certain people of their means of living.

The following speaker was the resident representative of the UNDP [United Nations Development Program] in Iraq Muhammad Zajjari [name as received] who briefed the audience on the activities of the United Nations Development Programme in Iraq over the last four years. He spoke about the humanitarian assistance programme started by the UN in Iraq in March 1991. He said financial resources are dwindling and the UNDP lacks the cash needed to maintain the humanitarian aid programme in Iraq.

The floor was then left to Mr. Thomas Ekvall [name as received], the UNICEF representative. The UN children's Fund envoy said his agency is working in cooperation with the Iraqi Health Ministry to combat two major causes of death among children, namely diarrhea and pneumonia. He also spoke about UNICEF role in encouraging breast feeding in Iraq. Mr. Ekvall praised the Ministry of Health for the efforts exerted to alleviate suffering.

Also addressing the symposium was the Health Ministry's senior Under Secretary Shawqi Sabri Murqus and reviewed the difficulties his ministry is facing as a result of serious shortages of drugs and medical equipment. He cited an example of how some governments in the West are blocking the supply to Iraq of vitally needed drugs like the Angised which is produced by a British firm.

He said, sarcastically, the British Government might be afraid that the Angised would be used in the manufacture of explosives.

The over three and a half hour symposium was chaired by Mr. Salah al-Mukhtar, editor-in-chief of AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper, who said in his introduction that hundreds of people in Iraq die everyday because they cannot find food or medicine. He said the Western governments have concentrated on political human rights while ignoring the people's fundamental right to survive.

Regime Said To Execute Military, Medical Staffers

MM2710155994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Oct 94 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] London, Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Iraqi opposition sources in London have stated that the Baghdad regime has executed a number of

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senior military intelligence officers charged with stealing and selling in the south oil pipes worth 25 million dinars. The government has also executed a number of doctors and medical personnel for refusing to carry out the decision to cut off the ears of young men who refuse to do [military] service. Some of those young men committed suicide collectively by clinging to a high-tension power cable.

Iraqi sources in Amman say that the Iraqi security authorities have, for the past week, been looking for a number of former military industry engineers suspected of contributing to the manufacture of bombs and explosives used by secret opposition organizations when attacking government targets.

That campaign was intensified after the Iraqi authorities' announcement that the devices used to blow up the Awqaf Ministry building were manufactured locally. The authorities stormed a number of houses and farms but failed to find the places where the devices, described as highly explosive, were manufactured.

The sources confirmed the continuation of opposition operations on the public roads between Baghdad and al-Basrah, as a result of which government employees were forbidden to use these roads after 1600 hours. The security situation in al-Basrah is still tense as the people evicted from the areas of al-Zubayr, al-Faw, and Abu-al-Khasib at the time of the recent military buildup near the Kuwaiti border are demanding that they be returned to their homes and fields, evacuated and declared areas of military operations by the army.

These evacuees are not being allowed to leave al-Basrah for any other town, nor to return to their original places of residence.

In London, Dr. Hamid al-Bayati, representative of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], has revealed that the Iraqi regime has executed a number of senior military intelligence officers by firing squad. Citing opposition sources, he said that those executed officers included Brigadier General Faris, head of the southern military intelligence department, as well as 3d Corps intelligence officers Brigadier Ahmad and Colonel Salam. The executions were carried out at intelligence headquarters in Baghdad.

He said that the Iraqi president's youngest son, Qusayy, heads the intelligence organ and has been given the task of purging the military intelligence service of elements whose loyalty to the regime is suspect. Al-Bayati added: "The regime also executed a number of doctors, including al-Basrah Military Hospital director, on a charge of not cutting off the ears of young men who refused to join the regime's service as stipulated in the Revolution Command Council's decision 117 of 25 August. We also have corroborated information on the arrest of a large number of doctors and medical personnel in Baghdad, Karkuk, and al-Basrah for refusing to carry out that decision.

"In the public turmoil and rejection of the savage reaction to the mounting number of people refusing to serve, 10 soldiers whose ears had been cut off and foreheads branded committed suicide last Saturday while being held at the 2d Corps prison in the Mansuriyat al-Jabal camp in the governorate of Diyala after their faces swelled up. The authorities had given them no medication or treatment."

Quoting opposition sources, al-Bayati said that the soldiers, most them born in 1974, and suffering from low morale as a result of their mutilation and torture, agreed to commit suicide collectively by simultaneously touching a live power cable in the prison.

Regime's Forces Bombard Kurdish Areas

NC2610175394 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The forces of the ruling fascist regime in Baghdad have bombarded the liberated areas in Kurdistan over the past two days. The villages in the Shawan region were subjected to concentrated shell fire today and yesterday, killing one citizen and injuring five others.

The bestial shelling caused material damage to the citizens' property in the villages.

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Clinton, Delegation Arrive for One-Day Visit

Weizman Welcomes Clinton at Airport

TA2710150494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1410 GMT 27 Oct 94

[Statement by President 'Ezer Weizman during the state ceremony welcoming U.S. President Bill Clinton on his arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport—live, in English]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mrs. Clinton, Mr. President, welcome to the State of Israel. We are a unique country. We have a task and a purpose and an aim in our life. For the last over hundred years we've been active in gathering our brethren from the four corners of the world, and we are now still doing it, but in the process we built a country with industry, with an economy that is improving, with academy, with art, with culture, music, theater. Unfortunately, in the long years that we've been doing it, some of our neighbors did not agree with this process, and we had to build a defense force to face the problems, and we went through heavy battles for almost 50 years, losing thousands of Israelis. I'm sure the other side lost too.

In this long process of building Israel, the ingathering of the exiles, and building a defense force, we never forgot the touch and the wish and the action to make contact with our enemies, to talk to them, and perhaps find a different way. In all this process, in all its ingredients, we were assisted by our own people from abroad, but we were mainly assisted by the United States of America, most of the presidents, in assistance in the economy, in backing in politics, and in helping in our security, and also in the peace process in the political and diplomatic moves.

The first break was with President Jimmy Carter, with the Egyptian peace treaty in 1979, a process that started at the end of 1977, with the late Prime Minister Menahem Begin, and with the late President Anwar al-Sadat. Without the push, the pressure, the help, the wisdom, the assistance of the United States, I doubt very much whether we would have achieved what we achieved in the past which is one of the great things that happened to us, the peace with Egypt.

Mr. President, you have been with us now some time, a few hours, and yesterday we took part in another great event, the signature of peace with Jordan. Again, an event that did not start overnight, but with diligent help and work by our people, by people on the Jordanian side, by your people—without mentioning all the names; there is the secretary of state here—by the prime minister, Mr. Rabin, and the foreign secretary, Mr. Peres. After years and months of hard work, yesterday was the final achievement of the signature of peace, and you were present, and you were present because it was appropriate that you will be there, because you had something to do with it. And it's very appropriate that today, we receive you for the first time in the land of Israel when you come from Damascus.

You didn't come straight from Washington. You arrived in the area to Cairo, then to Amman, then to Damascus, now to us, tomorrow to Kuwait, and again to Riyad. You must be a strong man, Mr. President. We appreciate what you are doing. We appreciate what the United States is doing. We hope that you are bringing good news with you from Damascus. If not, we have patience. We all have patience. One day it will materialize, like the peace with Egypt and the peace with Jordan.

Mrs. Clinton, Mr. President, as we say in Hebrew: Brukhim Haba'im, welcome to Israel.

Peres on Meeting With Christopher

TA2710175794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 27 Oct 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent Shlomo Raz at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem following his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Peres] Look, there was some progress in the meeting between President Clinton and President al-Asad. The picture I received is better than the picture which appeared on television. There has still been no breakthrough. A great deal of effort should still be invested.

[Raz] Is there a change in the Syrian opening position?

[Peres] Not in the opening position, but in the position after the opening position.

[Raz] If this is the case, then what is the basis for the optimism, this more relaxed atmosphere which you are all trying to relay?

[Peres] We are not trying to pass on an imaginary atmosphere. The impression is that al-Asad is also looking for methods. In my opinion, he did not make enough effort regarding the opening position.

[Raz] Do you possibly see a change emerging in the format of the negotiations? Will the level of the talks possibly be upgraded?

[Peres] Not yet.

[Raz] With your permission, Mr. Peres, another question. We know what the four problems—the four legs of the table [reference to Rabin's favorite description of the problems with Syria]—are. I would like to ask you about the terror issue then. In fact, Al-Asad evades the assumption of responsibility for this matter, does he not?

[Peres] It is the United States' impression that al-Asad became argumentative, while the earlier intention on relaying this position was different. [sentence as heard]

Rabin Speaks at Clinton Knesset Visit

TA2710201894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1854 GMT 27 Oct 94

[Speech by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at a special Knesset session attended by U.S. President Bill Clinton—live; italicized passages in English]

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[FBIS Translated Text] The Honorable President of the United States, the Honorable president of the State of Israel, Mr. Knesset Speaker, esteemed Knesset members, esteemed audience. We welcome you to Jerusalem, the eternal capital of the State of Israel and the heart of the Jewish people. Today the State of Israel is opening its heart to you and warmly shaking your hand, Mr. President. You are at home.

Permit me to congratulate two people on their birthdays, *and I'll do it in English. I would like to say to Hillary Clinton who had her birthday yesterday: Many happy returns. I would like to say to Secretary of State Christopher whose birthday is today: Many happy returns.* [applause]

Our debt to the U.S. and to you personally is immeasurable. Today the State of Israel is saying to you from the bottom of its heart: Thank you.

Mr. President, your country is a big superpower with over 250 million inhabitants, while ours is a country small in size and small in the number of inhabitants, which is over 5 million—I would say just that, compared to the United States. What then was the link that forged these unparalleled ties of friendship between us for two generations? Why do we feel elated when we meet with you, with administration officials, with Congressmen, with your American compatriots? How did we come to believe in you and trust you so? The answer is made up of everything, every kind of response: common values; a regard for the legacy of the Bible, although our religions differ; a large Jewish community; and, truthfully, political and security interests too.

Mr. President, here is my own answer: The warmth emanated by the White House, by Capitol Hill, by the American public, a warmth that traverses oceans and crosses thousands of miles from Washington to Jerusalem and from Jerusalem to Washington, is founded, first and foremost, on decades of mutual trust that is incomparable in depth, trust nourished over many years, which has been painstakingly built brick by brick. We always feel that our genuine concern about peace and security are also the genuine concern of the United States. My meetings with you, Mr. President, are characterized by mutual frankness; they are a time of delight for the State of Israel.

Some people say that your spiritual mentor, Dr. (Waugh), called you to his death bed and made you swear that if you ever reached the elevated position of President of the United States, if you ever became leader of the free world, you would never harm the State of Israel. I do not know whether this story is true, I never asked you. I only know one thing: If it is true, we could tell (Abe Waugh) with satisfaction today: Rest in peace, for your will has been fully executed.

Mr. President, you have come to this region, which is stricken with war, violence, and terror, during one of its greatest as well as most difficult hours. Yesterday you were a senior partner at a ceremony in which the State of Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan signed a peace treaty. After yesterday's ceremony, we woke up this morning to a new reality. Now we are going to imbue this peace with content. Yesterday we said that peace is made by people who dream of and desire peace, and there are a great many people who do that in both Amman and Jerusalem. The peace agreement signed with Jordan yesterday is a big step toward what we hope will be the end of the age of wars in the Middle East, wars that inflicted great suffering on the population of this region and caused much concern around the entire world. We are positive that, as always, we will again find your country and yourself assisting us and Jordan in nurturing this peace.

We have achieved a Declaration of Principles with the PLO, which aims to put an end to a bloody conflict of over 100 years. A lot of work still lies ahead of us, consisting of settling disagreements and mainly of nurturing good-neighborly relations between the two nations, because as we said, peace is made between people.

Behind us is a peace treaty with Jordan, ahead of us the continuation of negotiations with Syria, which aim to reinforce the two words we have uttered thousands of times from every podium and in connection with every political plan during the last two generations: We want a comprehensive peace, peace for everyone, peace with every Arab country, peace with the Muslim world.

We know that that there is wide support for peace and the peace makers of the Arab countries and among the Palestinians, even if we have not yet reached the implementation of all stages between them and us. Let us know the truth though: Peace has enemies who perpetrate terror and wreak destruction and death. They murder and kidnap, and they shoot indiscriminately. It was only recently that they planted a deadly bomb on a bus in the heart of Tel Aviv, and its 22 passengers lost their lives only because they were Jews and Israelis. They murdered an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier, the late Nahshon Wachsman, whose hurting parents' eyes are even at this very moment looking at us from the guests' gallery. We do not intend to capitulate to terror, and we will therefore act and strike at the terrorists. It was in an operation against the terrorists that late Captain Nir Poraz was killed in an attempt to rescue the late Nahshon Wachsman from his kidnappers.

We are facing radical Islamic terror, the enemy of peace, the enemy of the State of Israel, the enemy of Jews, which threatens not only the safety and well-being of our country, but also the rule of moderate Arab regimes, as well as the safety and well-being of your country, Mr. President, and the safety and well-being of the entire world. Iran leads this terror, and we respect your policy of *dual containment* against Iran and Iraq. From this podium I am calling on you Mr. President, and on the U.S. Congress and the American people to head the

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struggle against this murderous terror which wants to kill Israelis and peace, since this terror does not recognize borders and may cross seas and oceans in order to sow death.

On the journey toward peace with the Palestinians and the Jordanians, with the Syrians and the Lebanese, we know that you and your great people are our partners, understand our concerns, feel our distress, and support us also during the difficult hours, at times of crises and during day-to-day routine, not only at formal ceremonies.

Mr. President, in this country we decide our fate for ourselves, but we trust that you and your people will stand by us through the trials and hardships of the road which is still strewn with numerous mines. The fuel feeding the peace train and the citizens of Israel, Mr. President, is hope, as is the name of your hometown in the United States, *Hope. You were born in Hope, and hope in our language is* tiqva. We pin our hope on you too, President Clinton, and know you will not let us down.

We have great dreams and great hopes. We do not want to live by our sword forever. We are committed to peace, but are prepared to face up to any enemy.

Mr. President, you know already, and it is important to us to emphasize anew, that our road to peace is the road of compromise. We know we will not receive everything we desire, and we should impress on the minds of the other parties to the peace negotiations that they will not receive everything they want either. As a democratic country we have internal disagreements on the policy of readiness for compromise.

Mr. President, welcome to our home in Jerusalem, the focus of our yearnings and the object of our dreams for thousands of years. The overwhelming majority of the Israeli people view Jerusalem as the capital of Israel under Israel's sovereignty. Jerusalem is not a matter for negotiation. It is not subject for bargaining. Faithful to our heritage and our values we will always allow freedom of access and religious practice to members of all faiths, but Jerusalem has been and will be the eternal capital of the State of Israel under Israel's sovereignty, the beating heart of the Jewish nation. It is from this Jerusalem, the city of peace, from the center of the world, Mr. President, that we are offering to you our blessings, as is said in the Book of Books: The Lord bless you from Zion! May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life! May you see your children's children! Peace be upon Israel. [Psalms 128:5,6] Shalom. Peace be upon you Mr. President, and farewell.

Netanyahu Addresses Knesset

TA2710212394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1910 GMT 27 Oct 94

[Speech by Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu at a special Knesset session attended by U.S. President Bill Clinton—live; italicized passages in English]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Honorable President of the State and Mrs. Weizman; the Honorable President of the United States and Mrs. Clinton; the Honorable Chief Rabbis of Israel, Mr. Speaker, Distinguished Mr. Prime Minister, Knesset members, esteemed guests.

Many Israelis, many of those who are present here today, have crossed the Jordan River in the past. Some did it on dark nights, slowly and cautiously slipping into the river's waters, with an ear pricked to hear every murmur, every rustle of the reeds around them. Others did it in broad daylight—tense men inside stampeding war machines, amid the fire and smoke of battle. Today we are honoring and remembering those who fell before the completion of the endeavor, those who crossed over never to return, as did those who crossed the 'Arava during the night, equipped only with an old dream, a map, and a canteen of water. And now, before our very eyes, that very same old dream is coming true. Soon we will all be able to use the peace bridges to cross the Jordan River on our way to the Gil'ad and Mo'av Mountains, fearlessly, with a new hope in our hearts. Peace between Israel and Jordan is good news for both nations, and in addition, it unites the two flanks of this House.

Mr. Speaker, with your permission, I will say a few words in English to our distinguished guest on this special occasion.

Mr. President, I want to thank you for your consistent support and friendship for the State of Israel and for your unrelenting efforts to help us achieve what we all hope will be a genuine peace with our neighbors. And, I want to assure you, too, that this house stands united in its fervent desire for peace. Let no one question the depth of this sentiment across the aisles of the Knesset. What we've always sought is an end to the slings of war, to the unspeakable agony of grief. What we seek today is a peace that will endure beyond the ceremonies of yesterday—and, yes, beyond the ceremonies of tomorrow. Happily, Mr. President, this is the prospect offered by the peace treaty we have signed with Jordan.

Mr. Speaker, the peace treaty with Jordan is good news, but it is not to be taken for granted. Every child knows that history has cases of genuine peace as well as cases of false peace. Some peace agreements removed the danger of war, while others facilitated war and disaster. We remember that in this century, a high price was paid by the all of mankind, but mainly by the Jewish people, for the inability of well-meaning politicians to distinguish between the two kinds of agreements. Therefore, it is our supreme duty to make an accurate distinction between genuine and false peace. And indeed, I can hereby state explicitly: The agreement we have signed is an agreement for genuine peace.

For about 25 years, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has not threatened us with war or lent its hand to terrorism. Transjordan offers terrorists no safe havens from which they emerge and to which they can flee. This

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is not an interlocutor whose one hand offers an olive branch while the other holds lethal weapons. This is not a neighbor who speaks of peace, while at the same time allowing katyushas—no, yesterday it was mortars—to be launched at our villages and towns. This is not a leader whose mouth and heart harbor different thoughts. The Jordanians do not sanctify a covenant calling for Israel's destruction, nor adhere to a phased plan calling for our gradual annihilation. For some 25 years, we have had de facto peace with the Kingdom of Jordan, and this agreement complements it and bestows a seal of legitimacy on it.

Yet in our region, Mr. Speaker, peaceful intentions are a necessary but insufficient condition for instituting genuine peace. No one can guarantee that circumstances will not change, or that the intentions will not be reversed in the wake of constraints generated by the passage of time. Therefore, the second condition for genuine peace is security terms that will allow us to deter those who set out to violate the peace. And I can indeed state that this second condition, too, is upheld by the agreement. Signing this agreement, Israel did not abandon its defensive positions in exchange for the oft-violated promises of this or that archterrorist or dictator. And neither does this agreement entail the tearing away of parts of our homeland, which would have wrenched the hearts of the Jewish people. This is a genuine peace agreement, and not a political ploy aiming only to obtain land in a bid to improve positions in anticipation of the next war. We make peace with those who want to live alongside us, not replace us.

Therefore, the peace agreement with Jordan deserves to serve as an example for agreements we will sign with other Arab states: It is peace deriving from sincere intentions, peace from strength, and peace from the unity of all sectors of the people.

Mr. President, you have just returned from Damascus. There is talk of another peace agreement, and we all desire peace with Syria. While there, you must have heard the Syrian demand for the Golan Heights. I would like to tell you, Mr. President: Our demand is no less determined and far, far more justified. It is time for the aggressor, not the victim, to pay for aggression. Mr. President, only IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops on the Golan will be able to guarantee that this aggression will not recur, and no international force can or should wage this war, or rather carry out this task.

Distinguished Presidents, Knesset members. For thousands of years, the Jewish people's roots have been planted deep in the soil of this land and of this city. The recognition that we are not a passing episode in this region is the true key to genuine peace with our neighbors, while their vision of us as an alien intruder in a land in which we has no stake is the root of the protracted conflict and the fuel driving the nationalistic and Islamic radicalism still directed against us today.

Only two days ago, I heard a Palestinian leader, who subscribes to this radical doctrine, compare the State of Israel to the Crusaders. He said the Crusaders conquered the land, held it for 200 years, and disappeared, and so will Israel. That is what he said.

The departure of some Arabs from this doctrine in recent years stems, first and foremost, from their gradual awareness of the depth of the Jewish people's link with its roots in this land and from their understanding that we cannot be vanquished, as the Crusaders were; that we cannot be pushed into the last fortress along the sea shore; that our power, beliefs, and desire are strong enough to enable us to fight for our only land and state.

This gradual change in concept by some of the Arabs is a direct derivative of us establishing ourselves on this land, our settlement in all its forms, the ingathering of masses of Jews, and especially our victory in the Six-Day War. No longer a Jewish population crowded in a narrow coastal strip and in a tiny enclave in a divided capital, but a strong nation which returned to its historic homeland, consolidated defensible borders in it, and reunited Jerusalem under its sovereignty. It was that same unique materialization of Zionism which ultimately led to peace with Egypt and to the peace with Jordan that we are marking today. Therefore, the only way to expand this circle of true peace is through the strengthening of Zionism rather than the withdrawal from it; maintaining our defensible positions on the Golan, in Samaria and in Judaea, and not abandoning them; strengthening Jewish settlement and not dismantling it; increasing immigration and not reducing it; a deadly war against terror, and not capitulation to its demands or forgiveness of its defenders and sponsors; and yes, above all, strengthening our hold onto all parts of our eternal capital, Jerusalem, and not weakening that hold.

Mr. President, you are a student of the Bible and you know that we have come back to our biblical homeland. We'll soon mark the 3,000 anniversary of the days when King David united our ancient capital. We've built here truly a city on the hill, with faith and creeds open to all, but it's a united city, under Israeli sovereignty, and it must remain so. This is our policy; it will always be our policy, and may I express the hope that one day, Mr. President, it will be your policy, the policy of the United States.

We are still in the midst of the process of crystallizing Zionism. Some speak of the post-Zionist era, not us, Mr. Speaker. The drive toward peace cannot replace Zionism; it can rather come only upon increasing and fully crystallizing it. These are two sides which complement each other, the prophetic moral: materializing our national revival in Eretz Yisra'el alongside the vision of peace on earth, and it is in the name of this vision, both parts of it, that we are, on the occasion of this festive day, wishing peace to all our neighbors, primarily the Jordanian Kingdom and king.

Mr. Speaker, Knesset members, it is not every day that the head of the opposition in Israel can congratulate a prime minister in Israel on such a significant move which unites the overwhelming majority of the nation.

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Therefore, it is a day of satisfaction for me, thanks to the unity inherent in it, since our power lies as much in unity as it does in war and peace. Therefore, on the basis of this unity, I extend a last greeting to those who enabled us to reach this hour of grace: the IDF soldiers who stand on guard, you and those preceding you in struggle and sacrifice. It is with your power that we will overcome the obstacles still ahead and it is thanks to you that we have reached these days filled with hope, these days of peace.

Rabin, Clinton Hold News Conference

TA2710221394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2042 GMT 27 Oct 94

[Joint news conference by U.S. President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin with foreign and domestic correspondents at the Jerusalem International Convention Center—live, in English; italicized passages translated from Hebrew]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Rabin] Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, I believe that we experienced during the visit of President Clinton in the region a real move towards peace. No doubt that the visit of President Clinton was crowned yesterday by the second peace treaty between an Arab country and Israel, the first one after the convening of the Madrid peace conference. We look from Israel's point of view to President Clinton as a friend of Israel and a President that works very hard to bring about what we dreamt for, aspired to, to achieve a comprehensive peace, it is to say, peace with our four neighboring Arab countries. With two, it has been accomplished, and no doubt, the visit of the President in Damascus, I believe, that will bring about certain changes or movements towards better negotiations, better possibilities, to overcome the gaps between the positions of Israel and Syria. No doubt in my mind that during the term of you, Mr. President, as the President of the United States, we have seen a dramatic change in the relations between those Arab partners with whom we negotiate.

We signed the Declaration of Principles between us and the PLO on the lawns of the White House. It was followed by the negotiations to bring about the first phase of its implementation in Gaza-Jericho First. We are engaged today in a continuation of our negotiations with the Palestinians about early empowerment, elections, and no doubt yesterday, we signed a peace treaty that the President helped to bring about and witnessed.

For two years we reached two agreements: one with the Palestinians with which we have a long story of suspicion, hatred, prejudice, bloodshed; and with the Jordanians that I remember, over 46 years ago, that in this city I fought them and they fought me. And, we look forward to making it possible to overcome yet the differences between Syria and Lebanon and us. It might take time. One has to be patient. One has to understand that there are problems, and I believe that it will not take long, and hopefully we'll find ways and means by which to overcome these gaps.

I hope Mr. President that you will continue sending Secretary Christopher that worked very hard and tried in your name to move between Damascus and Jerusalem with the purpose to find ways to overcome the differences.

Allow me also to add that the Government of Israel of today is determined on one hand to continue all our efforts to bring about comprehensive peace, but at the same time, we are fully aware that there are enemies of peace. For us, the enemies of peace are the extreme Islamic radical terror movements. Among the Palestinians they are the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad. Ninety percent of the terror activities against us are carried out by them, and there is a tendency for oversimplification, to identify those parts of the Palestinians with whom we reached an agreement and we try to implement it, and the extreme, radical, Islamic elements that are enemies of peace and enemies of the Palestinians that reached agreement with us. From Lebanon, Hizballah, which is a part of the ugly wave of Khomeynism without Khomeyni, that is all over the Arab world and the Islamic world. Whatever happens in Algeria is not related whatsoever to the Arab-Israeli conflict, or in Sudan, or in fighting within Egypt. It's an ugly wave that threatens not only the peace; they are the infrastructure of the international terrorism, and behind it, certain extent to certain parties, larger extent is Iran. And therefore, Mr. President, we support your policy of dual containment. We believe it is vital to the peace in the Middle East, to stability among the Arab and the Muslim world, and to prevent international terrorism.

We thank you very much. You heard today in our Knesset the government and the opposition, together joined in support of the peace treaty with Jordan, in expressing thanks to you Mr. President, to the way that you have stood and stand in support of Israel's security, while trying your best to bring about advancement which was successful so far in bringing about peace to the region.

Therefore today, here, in Jerusalem, the united city, the capital of Israel, and no doubt the heart of the Jewish people, we thank you, thank you very much. [passage omitted]

[Gadi Sukenik, Israel TV Channel 1] Mr. President and Prime Minister Rabin, it's a question here from Gadi Sukenik, the Channel 1 Israeli Television. You are talking about a significant development coming from Damascus. From what we heard publicly till now, your visit to Damascus seems a disappointment for the Israelis. I mean, you gave the Syrians maybe one of the biggest gestures America has—a personal visit of the President of the United States—and President al-Asad responded publicly in his general words of peace, which we heard in past. So what else is new, Mr. President? And Mr. Rabin, what did you hear—maybe privately—from the President about this? [passage omitted]

[Rabin] I am accustomed to the prolonged and sometimes difficult periods of negotiations. If one would have

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told us two years ago that we'll make a strategic understanding with Chairman 'Arafat and the PLO, people would not believe. In the process towards peace, we have to overcome—on both sides—certain perceptions, sometimes prejudices one about the other. Therefore, I believe that all the partners to the Madrid peace conference—and by now there remain the Palestinians, with which we reached an agreement in principle; Syria, and Lebanon would like to have peace. I don't know anyone of the partners that don't want to have peace.

The only question is what is the meaning of peace, what is the price of peace. It takes time to overcome differences, and whatever I heard is, first, that Syria has strategically decided for peace. Second, they are ready to continue the negotiations—not in the best way, to my opinion, but as long as there is any avenue of negotiations, we should follow it. Thirdly, I don't believe it will be right on the part of Israel, regardless of what he said or didn't say in the press conference today in Damascus, which I would like that he would say different things.... [pauses] But it doesn't discourage me to continue our negotiations. And this is the essence of the peacemaking process: to be patient, to be determined, and not to be misled by ups and downs or public statements. Therefore, we will continue the way that it will be possible in negotiations with Syria. I am aware that there are gaps between our positions, but I can't recall any negotiations in the past that there were no gaps. And whenever we succeeded to reach an agreement, it came about as a result of the capability to make a compromise that bridged the gap.

[Barry Schweid, ASSOCIATED PRESS] Mr. Prime Minister, if you'll forgive us, we are going to keep pressing still. The President's speaking of change in positions, you're speaking of change in perception. We have the issues tattooed on our foreheads. The issues have been here for three years; we know their major gaps. Are you talking about new atmospherics three years after Madrid, or have you been told something about Syria's position on Golan, on security, on the terms of peace? Have you heard sufficiently for you to reverse your election stand and surrender the Golan Heights?

[Rabin] Well, first I believe that whoever sees what has taken place in the last over two years, he cannot ignore the tremendous change as a result of the Declaration of Principles between the PLO and us, the signing of the peace treaty, the openness in the Arab world, that a minister of Israel can fly to Bahrain, that multilateral negotiations can take place in Oman and Qatar and who knows where else, and the decision of the six members of the Gulf community council about ignoring, not canceling, the Arab boycott. There is a trend, a move that no doubt will have its implications in other Arab countries—I hope in the short run, or in the long run—even on the issues that have not yet been solved between Syria and Israel. I believe that the mere fact that there is a continuation of negotiations with all the partners, it creates new realities in the region. For Morocco, that tomorrow our big mission, headed by the foreign minister, will go to the Casablanca meeting. When did you expect that such a meeting will take place in an Arab country? We have to see beyond technical, or technical [as heard], or certain important issues between us and one of our partners the changes that have taken place in the whole region, in the attitude, a change of attitude. This is what reality speaks about.

And therefore, don't ask me today about details of this part or that part of the negotiations. The fact is that we are moving: Palestinians, yesterday Jordan, openness in the Arab world, different kind of relations, Morocco, Tunisia, and I believe there will be other Arab countries—this is the importance. You don't have to look at it on limited point of view, you have to look at it: Are there changes in the region? Are there changes in the attitude of so many Arab countries towards relations with Israel, or not? This is the issue. And if we continue—and we will continue, regardless to the terrible atrocities of the Islamic radical terror groups against us—I believe you'll see more changes, and more in the right direction.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, the restoration of Israel's exact fulfillment of over 300 Bible prophecies proves the Bible is God's true word. Genesis 17:8 says God gave Israel all the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession, and Leviticus 25:23 forbids her ever to sell it. How can it produce real peace to induce Israel to defy God by selling Judaea and Samaria for 'Arafat's or al-Asad's paper promises of peace?

[Rabin] You asked the President of the United States this question? [Clinton laughs] He is not representing Israel, to the best of my knowledge. [passage omitted]

[Helen Thomas, UPI] Mr. Prime Minister, in the agreements you signed with some of your Arab neighbors, the issue of Jerusalem remains unresolved, the whole status of East Jerusalem. That's also true at the UN and in most of the world: It's unresolved. Why did you search for such absolute control? Were you trying to put President Clinton on the spot tonight?

[Clinton] You mean in the speech to the Knesset?

[Thomas] Yes.

[Rabin] First, we are an independent state, and we have our positions, and the United States has got its positions. I can speak only on the Israeli position. We believe that Jerusalem must remain united under Israel sovereignty, but we did not reject that the Palestinians—once we negotiate permanent solution—will raise the issue. We know their position, they know ours. I believe that in the long run, the Jerusalem problem should be solved on two levels: the political one—that is to say what will be the sovereignty over the united Jerusalem, which we have no doubt that it must be Israeli sovereignty; and the question of the holiness of Jerusalem to the other two religions.

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And you'll see a sign in the Washington Declaration, and in the peace treaty that we signed between Jordan and Israel, that we distinguished between the holy shrines to the Muslims that in the last 27 years we allowed free access, free practice, but even beyond that: The administration of the holy shrines to the Muslims and the Christians is done by the respective churches. We don't intervene in the way that they run something within their holy shrines that derive from their own religion, as long as it doesn't affect the security of the area. It works for 27 years, and I believe.... [pauses]

We have in Hebrew an expression: Jerusalem in the heavens, and Jerusalem on the ground. I believe this is the key to the real solution in the long run of Jerusalem. But, we are committed—if they want—to raise this issue. We know our position. When we'll negotiate the permanent status between us and the Palestinians, we'll negotiate the solution to the refugee problems of much wider scope, not only with one partner, on a regional basis. Therefore, from my point of view, it's very clear.

[Shlomo Raz, Qol Yisra'el] *Mr. Prime Minister, I would like to seize this opportunity to ask a question in Hebrew. President Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher reported progress following their talks in Syria. On the basis of your meeting with President Clinton today, do you believe progress has been made, and if it has, in what direction?*

[Rabin] First of all, President Clinton briefed me on his meeting with President al-Asad. His impression was that in certain matters, there has been a certain degree of progress. It must be remembered that we have been negotiating with the Syrians for almost three years—since the convening of the Madrid conference. The progress has been in teaspoonfuls, in small portions.

Therefore, it was agreed in the conversation between us that the secretary of state Mr. Christopher would come back within three or four weeks to examine the degree of progress in order to help achieve our goals. We do want to reach peace with Syria, we do want a peace agreement with it. We have agreed in principle to withdraw. There is no agreement between us and Syria on what the peace border will be, and there are other issues which have not yet been resolved. President Clinton did not tell me there had been a historical breakthrough. He said there had been some progress on certain issues. Therefore, we must continue at the same level on which the negotiations with the Syrians have been taking place until now: shuttles by Secretary of State Christopher between Jerusalem and Damascus. So we agreed that this will take place within three to four weeks, if I am not mistaken.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, I know you have another day yet before the trip is over, and I know I am getting you while you are somewhat tired, but even so, I would like to ask you, if you could, to reflect a little bit—since this is the last press conference before you go home—if you could tell us a little bit about what have you learned on the trip over the last couple of days, what will you take home with you that's different from what you came here with, and what do you feel has changed for yourself from the experiences that you've had in the last hours that you spent?

[Clinton] This has been my first opportunity to see first hand the potential for a new Middle East, the real potential for peace, and the yearning that I see everywhere. In Damascus today when I was riding along the road and people would stop their working, or children would crowd around the buildings, the playyards and wave a greeting. They did it because they see the United States as the instrument of peace, to bring these two nations together, or at least, to make it possible for them to come together. These are all things you know, but until you see it, it's a very different thing indeed. I also come away from this trip, profoundly grateful to the leaders of Israel and Jordan for setting an example that I think will give confidence and conscience to the efforts that others will make now to resolve the problems in the Middle East. I also came away, frankly, with a much clearer idea of what things the United States can do, and indeed, what we must try to do to help make peace successful, from a security point of view and from an economic point of view. So all these things I leave with, but the most important thing is the deep yearning for this to work. I saw it in the energy in the Knesset tonight. We saw it in the energy and the passion in the Jordanian Parliament last night, and I've seen it on the streets of every place I have been, in the eyes of the people. I think we are doing it, we are on the right historic mission, and we need to redouble our efforts until we finish.

[Rabin] May I add, Mr. President, you are, in the last 15 years, the President of the United States that helped and attended signing of a peace treaty between an Arab country and Israel. [sentence as heard]

['Oded Ben-'Ami, the prime minister's media adviser] Mr. President, Mr. Prime Minister, ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much. Good night.

Rabinovich: Clinton Visit 'Extremely Successful'

TA2810092594 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 28 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Itamar Rabinovich, ambassador in Washington and head of delegation in peace talks with Syria, by correspondents Ge'ula Even and Gil Yerushalmi; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Even] This morning we are still having problems defining what happened in Damascus: Was it a disappointment, was no progress made, or was some progress indeed made in the Clinton-al-Asad summit?

[Rabinovich] I think the third possibility is the most appropriate depiction. There is, however, an element of disappointment stemming not so much from the talks themselves as from the failure of the news conference, which resulted in a less pleasant public atmosphere. In

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the private meeting of the two leaders—as President Clinton himself said in his news conference in Israel—Clinton and al-Asad reached some understanding that the Syrian president will denounce, in his own way, attacks such as the Dizengoff bus attack. In the news conference, however, he was bluntly asked questions by American correspondents, as some of these journalists are inclined to do. Al-Asad, in turn, replied bluntly, and in this respect things got out of control. In this case we can say the medium became the message and this colored the entire visit.

[Even] Would al-Asad have answered differently had the questions been phrased more gently?

[Rabinovich] This was what President Clinton gleaned from him. There is no point, however, in speculating about what could have been. The fact is that things went wrong, and instead of a denunciation of terror—even if only a mild and indirect one—other things were blurted out. Naturally, this left a negative impression. All this, however, belongs to the sphere of atmospherics and does not relate to the real purpose of the visit.

[Yerushalmi] What was achieved on the substance level?

[Rabinovich] Some progress was made. For some months now we have been negotiating with the Syrians over a package representing Israel's position on an arrangement. Syria has reacted to this package by submitting its own counterproposals to the package's various elements.

[Yerushalmi] Did Syria show more flexibility regarding the Golan withdrawal timetable or the normalization steps?

[Rabinovich] Look, for us the timetable does not relate merely to the withdrawal issue, rather to the implementation of the entire agreement, and this means more normalization and security arrangements than withdrawal, although we must not ignore the fact that an element of withdrawal is also included in the plan. I think we would do better not to deal with the fine details; the bottom line is that President Clinton extracted from President al-Asad more flexibility on some of these elements, and this will create the possibility for achieving more progress in the next few months of negotiations. From this viewpoint the Damascus visit was successful.

[Yerushalmi] You spoke about the Israeli-Syrian negotiations; HA'ARETZ writes this morning that there is a secret track of talks between Israeli and Syrian officers dealing with security issues. Can you confirm this report?

[Rabinovich] No. I can only tell you I have been involved in these negotiations for over two years and I have read many inaccurate or incorrect reports.

[Even] Is it true that Rabin conveyed a message to al-Asad about the need to curb Hizballah in Lebanon?

[Rabinovich] Such a message has been conveyed more than once.

[Even] Was such a message delivered yesterday?

[Rabinovich] Not yesterday. Several days ago, however, after a barrage of mortar shells landed in the Galilee, we again said that as far as we are concerned sincere peace negotiations cannot be conducted as long as organizations like Hizballah attack our northern settlements and fail to implement arrangements made more than a year ago.

[Even] Finally, Ambassador Rabinovich, after the joint Clinton-al-Asad press conference and the other events surrounding Clinton's visit to Damascus, are you more optimistic than before, or less optimistic?

[Rabinovich] I do no regard these negotiations in terms of optimism or pessimism. These negotiations are extremely difficult and intricate. They have been going on for a long time, and I believe they will take more time. The key words here are not optimism and pessimism, rather patience and perseverance.

[Yerushalmi] Did Clinton deliver the goods?

[Rabinovich] I think that as far as we and President Clinton are concerned, this was an extremely successful visit to our region. Had all of Clinton's hosts reacted as we did, the negotiations and the general situation in the region would have improved even more.

Olmert on Canceled Clinton Visit to East Jerusalem

TA2710143194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1226 GMT 27 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert on his car telephone by Yoram Ronen in the studio—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ronen] Good day to you, sir.

[Olmert] Good day.

[Ronen] Are you pleased with President Clinton's decision to call off his visit to East Jerusalem this evening?

[Olmert] I am certainly not pleased that the President decided not to visit the eastern part of the city. That is obvious.

[Ronen] Why?

[Olmert] I think it is expected and desired that when the president of a country comes to visit he should tour the city. Naturally, East Jerusalem, the Old City [conversation cut for five minutes due to cellular telephone disruption]

[Ronen] We are now going back to Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, hoping to hear him better. You told us earlier that you were sorry about President Clinton's decision to call off his visit to East Jerusalem.

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[Olmert] That is correct.

[Ronen] You expected him to visit the Western Wall, the adjoining caves, and Temple Mount with you.

[Olmert] Look, the visit was not initiated by us. Nobody told him: You are arriving in the city, and this is what you have to do. I was told that a request was submitted to the Foreign Ministry to saying that the President would like to visit certain places. The Foreign Ministry workers said: All right, he will be accompanied by the mayor. Later all sorts of problems erupted. I am sorry that in the end he will not be visiting those places, I am definitely sorry about it.

[Ronen] Will you be accompanying Mrs. Clinton during her visit to East Jerusalem?

[Olmert] I am now at the airport, and I will soon hear what is going on, but if she wants to visit the eastern part of the city I suppose I will accompany her.

[Ronen] Do you regard Clinton's decision to hold a courtesy meeting with you at the King David Hotel, perhaps to reward you for the cancellation of the tour, as a reasonable solution?

[Olmert] There is no reward as far as I am concerned. I do not consider it a reward. I did not ask for a private meeting with the President. Of course, if the President asks to see me I will not turn him down. It would be inconceivable to do that. He is the President of the United States, and I must treat him with all the respect he deserves, but this does not redress Jerusalem's honor.

[Ronen] It must be pointed out that in their visits Presidents Nixon and Carter did not skip East Jerusalem.

[Olmert] That is not entirely accurate. The Americans checked this and they claim that President Carter did not visit the holy sites. I know that Bush visited them, and I have a picture of Bush on Temple Mount with Teddy Kollek.

[Ronen] Bush visited in his capacity as vice president, and that is a big difference.

[Olmert] There is a difference, but it is not that big. He later became the President.

[Ronen] So maybe we should start with a visit by Al Gore and then move on to Clinton.

[Olmert] I do not think we have to give them such breaks, but we are not the ones who decide. He obviously also has a say.

[Ronen] Perhaps in the mess that evolved there was no choice but to call off the visit so as to please all sides.

[Olmert] I do not think all the sides must be mollified. The basic premise is wrong. There is a united Jerusalem. When a mayor visits with the President it is a matter of protocol, but as soon as he is told that he cannot visit a certain part of the city, that is when a political problem arises. In my opinion, if the President had visited with me it would have been natural and understood and would not have called for any political conclusions. The moment someone says that the President cannot visit a certain place with the mayor, that is when a political problem is created. I do not think anybody should accept that there are two sides with equal demands and both must be mollified. Faysal al-Husayni does not represent anything; at best he represents himself. He does not open or close gates, and he has no power to threaten anybody. I believe that the very fact that they are preoccupied with the matter is very problematic.

[Ronen] It turns out though that President Clinton does not exactly see eye to eye with you on the issue.

[Olmert] Well, slowly they will. What is more important is that we should agree among ourselves. As long as we agree among ourselves about the status of Jerusalem and we show determination and unequivocal strength about the future, status, and integrity of Jerusalem as Israel's capital—all the rest is important, but is not decisive.

[Ronen] But you cannot have any complaints about this issue for the Prime Minister's Office or the Foreign Ministry. They backed you up and said that if you do not accompany Clinton there would be no visit.

[Olmert] I reiterate what I said before: I am often critical of the prime minister, but on this issue he acted as a prime minister should and he definitely deserves our appreciation. I am glad about it and I respect it. The same applies to the Foreign Ministry.

[Ronen] Thank you, sir, I hope that Clinton's visit to Jerusalem proves quiet and successful even if he does not visit the eastern part of the city.

[Olmert] I very much hope that all the residents of Jerusalem will greet the President amicably, albeit with a twinge of regret.

Beilin Notes 'Progress' in Clinton Syria Talks

TA2710164994 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1514 GMT 27 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Razi Barqay and Mikhal Gazit; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] [Barqay] Good evening, Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin.

[Beilin] Good evening.

[Barqay] Do you already know what President Clinton has brought back in his briefcase from Damascus?

[Beilin] I can say one thing. The talks held behind closed doors were more significant than the news conference. The Americans report that certain progress has been made. This does not in any way constitute a breakthrough, but the visit was not in vain and helped

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promote the negotiations. At the same time, I do not have to add that at the news conference Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad had nothing new to say and that in some respects it was even a disappointment. [passage omitted]

[Gazit] Mr. Beilin, al-Asad appears to have a lot of patience. He even seems prepared to make Clinton look a bit silly. Perhaps this is because Syria has remained the last country in line. But how much time and patience does Israel have? Is this part of the psychological war between Syria and Israel?

[Beilin] Both sides are definitely engaged in some sort of a psychological war, in the framework of which each party pretends to have all the time in the world in order to extract a maximum of concessions from the other side. Nevertheless, I believe that time is on our side. I think that the present situation where Israel has already reached agreements with Egypt, the PLO, and Jordan—while Lebanon is very eager to reach an agreement with us—places Syria, the only neighboring country which has not reached an agreement with Israel, in a very difficult position for a state purporting to lead the Arab world. Today, Israel maintains relations with the Gulf states and the Maghreb countries. Al-Asad now finds himself in quite a predicament while attempting to portray himself as someone with all the time in the world. Since none of us has that much time, I do not think anyone buys this act.

[Gazit] In conclusion, let us review the positive side. How much weight can be given to al-Asad's stated readiness for normalization with Israel.

[Beilin] Although no one would consider me a security hawk or an opponent of the peace process, I consider it my duty to say that President al-Asad's statements at today's news conference, including on the issue of normalization, contained nothing new. He has said all this before and I will not present isolated words taken out of context as a great accomplishment.

For me, incidentally, it was far more important to hear Clinton reiterate his personal commitment to remain involved in the peace process. I think that the fact that Clinton is prepared to intervene in the conflict, in addition to Secretary of State Christopher—just as former President Carter intervened in the past between Egypt and Israel—was perhaps the most significant piece of news today except for the certain amount of progress which was made during Clinton's trip to Syria, the details of which I am prohibited from discussing.

[Barqay] Thank you very much, Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin.

Beilin Urges Dialogue With 'Moderate' Hamas Elements

TA2810110894 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 1845 GMT 27 Oct 94

[Report given by Foreign Ministry Spokesman Dani Shek]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, 27 Oct (GPO)—Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, today (Thursday), 27.10.94, called for a dialogue between religions in order to reduce the violence that accompanies political conflicts. In a meeting with Muslim leaders from Indonesia, Deputy Minister Beilin stated that nobody should be banned from the dialogue and that there should be a dialogue with moderate elements within Hamas which recognize the existence of the State of Israel.

The Indonesian religious leaders, some of whom are close to President Suharto, supported Deputy Minister Beilin's approach and emphasized that all religions are obliged to repudiate all acts of violence and terror. They reported that the Indonesian public is exposed to anti-Israel propaganda and called for relations between the two peoples to be enhanced in order to explain the situation correctly.

It was agreed to deepen the dialogue by focussing on an appeal to the leaders of all religions to intervene in the conflict and to ask their communities not to use religion as an excuse to justify acts of wild violence.

Hamas Activists Detained; Citizen Believed Kidnapped

TA2710180994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Another 10 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists were arrested last night in the Ramallah area. This was reported to our correspondent Dani Zaqen by Palestinian sources. The wave of arrests began following the terrorist attack in Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Square [19 October] and approximately 100 Hamas activists have been detained so far. Last night, two activists were arrested. One of them was apparently wanted by the authorities.

This afternoon the security forces halted their searches in Samaria. The searches were launched following reports that an Israeli citizen may have been kidnapped in the vicinity. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Israel Police believe that there is some basis to the testimony of Lili Menashe, a resident of Ari'el, who claimed to have witnessed the kidnapping; however, without other witnesses or additional proof, there is no point in continuing the searches and it is better to focus on intelligence efforts. A security source told our correspondent Dani Zaqen that the security forces are maintaining a high level of alert.

Additional Hamas Members, Leaders Detained

TA2510115394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tens of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists were detained in Nabulus early this morning. The detainees include several senior Hamas members in Nabulus as well as Hamas deportees to Lebanon. Searches were also conducted of several Nabulus mosques. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that two senior Hamas leaders were also detained in the

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Bi'r Nabala village north of Jerusalem. The two had been jailed in the past due to their activity in the organization.

The Palestinian Police have released six activists of Nayif Hawatimah's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, but are still holding another 13 activists of this organization. They were detained about a month ago on suspicion of involvement in shooting incidents against IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrols in the Gaza Strip.

Spokesman Reports Baraq Assessment of Jordan Treaty

TA2510175494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq has hailed the peace treaty with Jordan, saying it lessens the danger on Israel's longest border. Lieutenant General Baraq was speaking to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. David Ze'ev reports:

[Ze'ev] The army spokesman quotes Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Ehud Baraq as praising the peace treaty with Jordan during his appearance before the closed-door meeting of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Gen. Baraq said the accord reduces the danger of a hostile coalition forming on Israel's longest border, what he referred to as Israel's soft spot. The chief of staff said the immediate effect of the peace treaty will be to bring a greater number of forces to the border area to mark the boundaries as detailed in the treaty. The army chief said the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will ensure that the agreement is adhered to to the letter.

As a result of the peace process in general, the chief of staff said, there has been a significant drop in reserve duty. Millions of days of reserve duty have been cut, he said, to the level of before the Arab intifadah uprising in the territories, which was launched at the end of 1987.

The army spokesman said the issue of arrests of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists did not come up and that the matter is only raised on the subcommittee level, where the deliberations are classified, but Gen. Baraq is quoted as saying that while doing what it can, the Palestinian self-rule authority is still not doing enough to curb Hamas. The army chief of staff said the closure on the territories should remain in effect until there is a significant change in the security situation.

[A related report by Knesset correspondent Hadar Vismonsky on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 25 October adds that "the chief of staff refused to predict how long this will take.

["According to Baraq, there has been a rise in the number of attacks against SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers, rather than against IDF troops, in Lebanon recently.

["Knesset Member Ra'anan Kohen demanded an urgent debate in the committee about the argument that erupted, as it were, between the IDF's elite commando unit and the Israel Police's Special Operations Unit following the operation to rescue Nahshon Wachsman. The chief of staff refused to comment on the issue, and the committee chairman struck it off the agenda."]

Poll Conducted on Peace Process, Security Policies

TA2810123494 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Oct 94 p 4

[Public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute directed by Dr. Mina Tzemah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Question: How would you grade the government's performance in each of the following spheres? The results are quoted in percentage points.

	Peace Process	Internal Security
Very good	25	7
Good	41	29
Not good	20	30
Definitely not good	13	33
Did not reply	1	1

The poll was conducted on 25 and 26 October among 518 respondents who constitute a representative sample of Israel's adult population. The maximum margin of error is 4 percent.

Ties With Indonesia Expected 'in the Near Future'

TA2810113794 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Oct 94 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Indonesia will establish full diplomatic relations with Israel in the near future. This was said in Jerusalem yesterday by (Johan Asandi), who is considered President Suharto's right-hand man.

Asandi, who heads a delegation for religious dialogue visiting Israel, met with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin and Uri Savir, director general of the Foreign Ministry.

Delegation Leaves for Casablanca Economic Conference

TA2810092694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An Israeli delegation including eight ministers left for Casablanca this morning to attend the Middle East Economic Cooperation Conference. Included in the delegation, among others, are Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, and Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will join the delegation on Sunday [30 October]. The Israeli delegation, which also includes approximately 130 businessmen, will be the largest delegation among the 50 delegations attending the conference.

Our correspondent in Rabat Gid'on Kouts reports that Minister Peres will meet King Hassan today. The opening of Israel's liaison office in Rabat has been postponed until next Tuesday at King Hassan's request.

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King: Ties With U.S. 'Better Than Ever Before'

JN2710211894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Excellency U.S. President Bill Clinton concluded his visit to Jordan this morning after taking part in the signing ceremony of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty held in Wadi al-'Arabah yesterday where he signed the treaty as a witness. His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan headed those who bid his excellency farewell at Queen Alia International Airport. [passage omitted]

In a press statement following U.S. President Clinton's departure, His Majesty King Husayn praised the relations between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the United States of America and described them as better than ever before. His majesty said that the United States supports Jordan to the best of its ability.

His Majesty added:

[Begin recording] [Husayn] I believe that the relations are better than ever before. The visit came at the right time. His participation in this particular occasion, in his capacity as the President of the United States, shows the importance of this event, as well as everyone's appreciation of this country's people, march, policy, and, thanks be to God, its credibility.

Other than that, we had the opportunity of discussing several topics. We are proud of our friendship and I believe that they [the Americans] support us to the best of their ability.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, as of yesterday, Jordan entered a new stage, the stage of peace. What do you say to your people at this stage?

[Husayn] This is a new beginning for me and, God willing, for all of them—my kinsfolk, my loved ones, my sons, my daughters, and my brothers—as well. Thanks be to God for granting us success at least in reassuring ourselves about the present and the future as far as prospects that, God willing, would serve the interests of these good people, who preferred all others to themselves and only to find themselves abandoned. Therefore, they had to handle their own matters. Thanks be to God, our family is the one big, strong, and dear Arab family. The heads will remain high and will not bow to anyone but Almighty God.

God be praised for his guidance. I am greatly relieved because I performed part of my duty toward them. God willing, this is a gift for the next generations to enjoy in a future full of prosperity.

Clinton's Visit Said 'Boost' to Foreign Policy

JN2610143394 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Oct 94 pp 1, 16

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Senior Officials and diplomats see U.S. President Bill Clinton's decision to witness the signing of the peace treaty with Israel and his visit to Amman as a major boost to Jordan's foreign policy and its new regional role.

"We do not share the view that the aim of his coming here is to boost his image among American voters before the November elections," Jordanian Ambassador to the U.S. Fayiz al-Tarawinah says. "The President might have found it more profitable to invite His Majesty the King and Prime Minister Rabin to Washington for a signing ceremony there if that was truly his aim."

The real import of the President's decision to come here, Dr. al- Tarawinah and other officials agree, is to lend the treaty full support where it matters most, here in the region.

Beyond that, Mr. Clinton's visit to Jordan in particular is important on two fronts, the Jordanians say.

The first, is the bilateral field, where American reengagement in supporting the Jordanian political and economic agenda would be pivotal to this country's progress.

"The fact that the Americans had agreed to set up joint bilateral committees with us, when they do not have them with many other countries, meant a lot to us," one official said, referring to an agreement earlier this year to reactivate U.S. Jordanian relations on all levels.

Now, with the President's visit here, the joint effort will be all the more fruitful, especially if reports that Mr. Clinton would announce a new package of financial aid to the Kingdom turn out to be true.

According to reports that circulated in the media following the initialing of the treaty on Oct. 17, the U.S. pledged to provide Jordan with $400m annually for a period of 10 years as a way of supporting the economy. Those reports were later denied by the State Department last week, but at least one Jordanian official was quoted as saying yesterday that after all there might be truth to them. The reports could not be confirmed independently.

The second front on which the visit of the U.S. President assumes importance as far as Jordan is concerned, the officials said, is the political support that His Majesty the King will from now on be getting from the Americans.

Arab Gulf leaders for instance will now have to think twice before they reject another reconciliation bid with Jordan, one official said.

"In less than two years, President Clinton has met the King four times already, with Crown Prince Hasan twice, and they have established a good working relationship, even friendship," the official said. "Arab leaders, with whom Jordan is still not in favour, have to look at the way and speed with which Jordan rebuilt its bridges to the U.S., and take into account the disadvantages of continued estrangement with us."

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The new ties are so cosy that Jordanian officials say they deliberately did not invite any head of state except Bill Clinton "to the signing of the treaty," REUTERS wrote in a dispatch from Amman yesterday.

"The scene ... of Clinton attending the ceremony and then flying to Amman to address parliament, on the first visit by a U.S. leader in two decades ... would have been inconceivable in 1990."

Egypt's Musa, Officials Comment on Treaty

JN2710213994 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Oct 94 pp 1, 20

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Al-'Aqabah—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that he has relayed to His Majesty King Husayn an oral message from his brother His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak containing his congratulations on the historic event of signing the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

In a statement to the AL-DUSTUR mission in al-'Aqabah, Musa added: What we see in al-'Aqabah today is a significant product of the ongoing regional peace process, which is grounded in the Madrid Conference terms of reference, particularly UN Security Council Resolution 242, which provides for trading territory for peace.

Musa went on to say: The signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty is a step in the right direction. It is our hope that the peace talks on the Palestinian track will come to a successful conclusion. We deem this track extremely important. We hope that Israel will expedite its withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, even if such withdrawal were to be completed ahead of schedule. This is because such a development would swiftly promote stability and security in the region.

'Amr Musa hoped that the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and President Clinton's visit to Damascus, during which he will hold talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, will contribute toward the rapid achievement of peace on the Syrian track of the negotiations. [passage omitted]

Musa urged further efforts to achieve cohesion between the Jordanians and Palestinians, clear the atmosphere between them, and remove any bilateral misunderstanding, because they face the same challenges. They, he added, must demonstrate further cooperation to cope with the challenges of peace. He explained that Egypt will spare no effort to clear the atmosphere among all Arab states.

In reply to a question posed by AL-DUSTUR, Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, said that the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed yesterday was a big historic development. He added that the Jordanians are hopeful that the durable and comprehensive peace advocated by His Majesty King Husayn will be achieved. [passage omitted]

For his part, Dr. Ibrahim Badran, coordinator of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks, has said that the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty will be registered with the United Nations once it is enacted into law by a royal decree.

Badran added that an Israeli Foreign Ministry delegation is expected to arrive in Amman next week to conduct some surveillance in some areas in order to choose a site for the Israeli Embassy building. He went on to say that it is likely that some Israeli diplomats may take up temporary residence at a Jordanian hotel to make the necessary arrangements for the travel of Jordanians to Israel. He said that Jordan may make a similar move in the next few weeks. He noted that Jordan and Israel will exchange diplomatic representation next month. [passage omitted]

Badran indicated that the border crossings with Israel were opened in areas away from the borders with the West Bank, because Jordan wanted to avoid any political misunderstanding with the PLO. He added that the the borders with the Palestinian autonomous areas will be agreed with the Palestinian brethren in the future.

Paper Praises Clinton's Speech to Parliament

JN2810090494 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Oct 94 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "President Clinton's Speech to Parliament"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton's speech to the parliament was a very important event which has great significance and meaning. This was the first time our parliament meets in a session to listen to a head of a friendly or brotherly state, an occasion which is worthy of all praise and recognition.

Additionally, President Clinton's speech expressed a very important U.S. position on the current developments. That position was also characterized by a great deal of understanding of Jordan's experience and policies. It also demonstrated a greater, positive understanding of a number of issues that preoccupy the minds of the Jordanians, Arabs, and Muslims.

The U.S. president stressed support for Jordan's current position on the peace process. He praised the moderation and political realism which this country represented over several decades. He also voiced his country's readiness to meet Jordan's pressing requirements at this stage, both the defense and economic requirements which must be met so that peace can become a tangible reality for all those concerned with that peace.

With such support, understanding, and backing, which were voiced by President Bill Clinton before parliament, we can say that one of the most immediate fruits of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty has indeed been achieved; that is, the return of the Jordanian-U.S. ties to their previous condition, which has always been marked by friendship, cooperation, and mutual respect.

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In addition, the U.S. president's positive and respectful view of Islam, and the deep understanding of the religion of tolerance and peace that characterized that view, were very well received by the Jordanians, Arabs, and Muslims, who were pleased to hear President Clinton deny the existence of a cultural conflict between the West and the Arab-Islamic civilization. They were also pleased to see the U.S. president differentiating between the extremists and fanatics and the substance of this noble religion, which advocates justice, tolerance, and amity among people.

U.S. President Bill Clinton's speech before parliament the day before yesterday was a significant illustration of the fact that Jordan has regained its special regional role in the Middle East. It was also clear evidence that the Jordanian-U.S. relations are now free from the stains that tarnished them in the past few years. The speech also included signals on supporting Jordan, strengthening its economic infrastructure, and spreading the fruits of peace on this people, who aspire to improve their standards of living and the chances for their development and prosperity.

Ba'th Party Protests Clinton Visit

JN2710095994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 26 Oct (INA)—The Supreme Command of the Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has reaffirmed its support for Iraq in its legitimate struggle against the U.S.-led savage onslaught.

In a statement issued here today on the occasion of U.S. President Clinton's visit to Jordan, the party says: Our Arab people have not, and will not, forget that the United States has led the 30-state aggression against our people in Iraq and is insisting on maintaining the unjust blockade imposed on it.

The statement adds: Our people in Arab Palestine are still under the yoke of the Zionist occupation troops and their racist acts, which enjoy support from the U.S. Administration.

The party reaffirms its firm and principled position, which rejects the settlement treaty that Jordan and the Zionist entity signed today.

The statement says that the party instructed Deputy Khalil Haddadin to boycott tonight's session of the Jordanian House of Representatives, which will be addressed by Clinton, to protest the United States' ceaseless bias in favor of the Zionist entity and its animosity toward the Arab nation's aspirations toward liberation and progress.

Brotherhood Leader Rejects Treaty With Israel

BR2710141694 Rome IL MESSAGGERO in Italian 27 Oct 94 p 2

[Telephone interview with 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyyat, Muslim Brotherhood leader and Islamic Front deputy, in Amman by "E.S."; date not given: "But the Fundamentalists Cry Treason"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [IL MESSAGGERO] So do you, Mr. 'Arabiyyat, condemn the Palestinian fundamentalists' terrorist attacks?

['Arabiyyat] No, not at all. We are in Jordan, where there is democracy, a parliament. They live under Israeli occupation. Their lands are controlled by the military. Many Palestinians are still prisoners in Israeli jails. They are defending themselves. So what they are doing is understandable.

[IL MESSAGGERO] If the issue is merely a Palestinian matter, why do you condemn the peace treaty?

['Arabiyyat] It does not meet our requirements, the requirements of Jordan. The problem of the Palestinian refugees who have been living here for years and would like to return home still remains to be solved. The issue of sovereignty over Jerusalem has not been settled. Many of the UN resolutions have not been complied with.

[IL MESSAGGERO] Some Islamic Front deputies have taken to the streets to demonstrate against the treaty. What else will you do?

['Arabiyyat] All we can.

[IL MESSAGGERO] Will there be attacks on Israeli tourists? Will there be acts of terrorism in Jordan?

['Arabiyyat] I hope not. We are not Hamas, and the fundamentalists in Jordan are not the same thing as the organization present in Gaza and the occupied territories. We have a parliament where we can express our disagreement.

[IL MESSAGGERO] You have criticized Clinton's visit. Why is that?

['Arabiyyat] As our group's spokesman has already said, the American President is an enemy of our nation—the Arab nation—in Palestine, Jordan, Iraq, Sudan, and elsewhere. We shall not welcome him in parliament and we shall use every democratic means to make him aware of our hostility to his presence among us.

Protest March Postponed; Brotherhood Rally Held

JN2710204594 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Oct 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Eight Jordanian parties have postponed to Sunday [30 October] a protest march against the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. The march was originally scheduled to take place yesterday afternoon and proceed from al-'Abdali Square to the al-Hashimiyah Square through the city center.

The Muslim Brotherhood held a speech rally at the Roman Amphitheater two evenings ago. During the rally, speeches rejecting peace with Israel were delivered.

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In another development, the professional unions yesterday morning staged a sit-in at the professional unions complex in protest against the treaty.

IAF Urges Government 'To Renege' on Treaty

JN2710205094 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Oct 94 pp 24, 22

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—The Islamic Action Front [IAF] has asked the government to renege on the peace treaty with Israel. He added that the government's failure to do so will render it unqualified to continue to assume executive power.

At a news conference held at the IAF headquarters yesterday, Deputy Hamzah Mansur, spokesman for the IAF deputies who also spoke on behalf of the parties, professional associations, trade unions, and popular organizations opposing the treaty, stated his opposition to the treaty. He added that all these parties and organizations will seek to nullify it. Mansur urged deputies to oppose the party, and not to ratify it.

Manusr went on to say that the IAF will not change its decision to boycott the peace treaty signing ceremony in Wadi al-'Arabah, and the joint Parliament session, which will be addressed by the U.S. President.

The official spokesman for the IAF deputies said that the treaty opponents have the right to express their views in public, using all possible means.

Mansur added that the IAF deputies' opposition to the treaty will continue to be expressed through democratic means as long as the governments remains committed to the democratic approach. He explained that the IAF examined the unofficial translation of the treaty as published in Israeli newspapers. He regretted the fact that Arab politicians had to use reports regarding the treaty published by these papers.

Mansur said: We urge our people and economists to continue to boycott Israel, and not to conclude trade and economic transactions with it.

At his news conference, Mansur listed what the IAF views as pitfalls in the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

IAF Leader: Treaty Is 'Danger to the Country'

BR2510141494 Rotterdam ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD in Dutch 25 Oct 94 p 6

[Interview with Palestinian Hamzeh Mansour, IAF floor leader, by Marc Guillet in Amman; date not given: "Jordanian Opposition Sharpens Knives"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Palestinian Hamzeh Mansur, leader of the influential Muslim fundamentalists, is the floor leader of the Islamic Action Front [IAF], which holds 16 of the 80 seats in Jordan's lower house.

The politician calls the peace treaty a "disaster" and a "danger to the country." "The people were not consulted about this agreement. The parliament was not asked for its opinion. So far, we have not seen an official text. What kind of people concoct everything in secret?"

"We say we are a democracy. This treaty goes against all our principles. It takes no account at all of the interests of Jordanians. Many countries are devastated by war, yet their citizens and governments have not given themselves up to the extent that is happening here. Many countries that have had treaties like this forced on them have rejected them. This agreement is only in the interests of the aggressive Zionist enemy.

[Guillet] Why?

[Mansur] In this treaty it is accepted that Israel occupies Palestine. It gives Israel and Zionism a strategic advantage. It offers Israel security and a place in the region. That is why Rabin called it "historic," and he is right about that.

[Guillet] Since the UN resolution of 1947, the Arab world has always said no to Israel. That has led to nothing, and has only cost more territory and lives.

[Mansur] Would you accept it if the United Nations split your country in two? Or would you give your consent if your neighbor stole from your garden? Treat us as you yourself would like to be treated.

[Guillet] Are you calling for Israel to be removed from the map?

[Mansur] There is a difference between Jewish families that have always lived in Palestine and Israelis who have occupied the country. Israeli immigrants, such as former Prime Minister Shamir, who came from Poland, must go back to their country of origin. Some 4 million Palestinian refugees have the right to return home. They have paid a heavy price. European and other countries must recognize this, especially Great Britain and the United States. London paved the way for this tragedy. Washington gave Israel the money and arms it needed for its policy of occupation.

[Guillet] What danger to Jordan is lurking in the agreement? Has there already been talk of a civil war?

[Mansur] I hope civil war can be avoided and I, together with my party, will do everything to prevent it. There may be some naive people who use violence. We will not be responsible for that. However, the treaty remains unacceptable to the people. There is nothing in it about the right of Palestinian refugees to return. [Mansur ends]

Israel wants to negotiate this after everything else is over. Mansour smiles mockingly. He does not believe any of it, and points at the tea glass in front of him on the desk. "This glass is full. There is no room for more tea. Only Palestinians can live in Palestine, not Israelis."

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[Guillet] As a minority in parliament, you cannot stop the treaty from being ratified. You have announced that you will do everything you can to block a normalization of relations with Israel. How?

[Mansur] In cooperation with many other Jordanian organizations. I know it is difficult. The normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel has still not been established due to opposition from Muslims. The Israeli Embassy in Cairo is isolated. Egyptians still refuse to travel to Israel, 15 years after the signing of the peace treaty.

[Guillet] Is the sabotage of a reconciliation between Israel and Jordan in the short term the only goal of the Islamic Action Front?

[Mansur] No. We will make it clear to the people, in a number of ways, what this treaty actually means. I am fulfilling my role as opposition leader in parliament. The Front will organize demonstrations and campaigns. We will disseminate our views via schools, universities, and mosques. We are working to have public opinion reject this agreement and in doing so put pressure on the government to change its policy or step down.

[Guillet] And if your campaign is not successful?

[Mansur] We still have many years ahead of us and the fight between Arabs and Israelis will continue. The side that is right will win. The fate of the Israelis will be the same as that of the crusaders and colonists.

Peace Treaty Opponents Reportedly Arrested

NC2810110594 Paris AFP in English 1009 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Oct 28 (AFP)—Police have detained opponents of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty who were preparing to stage demonstrations on Friday [28 October], the fundamentalist Islamic Action Front said.

Samih al-Ma'ayitah, a member of the front, told AFP five Muslim fundamentalists and two leftists were arrested Thursday in al-Zarqa', 25 kilometers (15 miles) northeast of Amman.

There was no immediate official confirmation of the report.

Al-Ma'ayitah identified five of those detained as members of the Islamic Action Front which boycotted a speech U.S. President Bill Clinton gave to the Jordanian parliament on Wednesday after he witnessed the signing ceremony.

The other two were members of the Jordanian Popular Democratic Party, Hashd, a leftist group, al-Ma'ayitah said.

Hamzah Mansur, a deputy and spokesman of the Islamic Action Front, told AFP that an eighth person was arrested Thursday in al-Salt, 30 kilometers (20 miles) west of Amman.

He said the authorities had banned demonstrations on Friday [28 October] while a protest which had been planned for Wednesday, when Clinton visited Amman, and rescheduled for Sunday was also outlawed, he said.

Police vans were meanwhile stationed outside several mosques in Amman while reinforcements were deployed in al-Zarqa' ahead of the noon Muslim prayers, according to al-Ma'ayitah.

A Muslim cleric, who did not want to be identified, told AFP that the authorities contacted a number of prayer leaders opposed to the treaty which was signed on Wednesday and ordered them against preaching.

"But preachers have a duty to speak the truth because the signing of the treaty is a religious sacrilege," the cleric said.

On Tuesday around 2,000 Jordanians took to the streets of Amman to protest the treaty which the Islamic Action Front, the Muslim Brotherhood's political party, denounced as humiliating.

On Wednesday the 16 deputies of the front boycotted Clinton's speech to the lower and upper houses of parliament, in which he warned that the "forces of terror" against derailing peace.

Fundamentalist Cleric Hurt in Clash Over Treaty

NC2810135994 Paris AFP in English 1328 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Oct 28 (AFP)—An outspoken Moslem fundamentalist cleric opposed to the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty was hurt Friday when clashes broke out inside a mosque between opponents and supporters of the accord, officials said.

The authorities had banned Shaykh 'Abd al-Mun'im Abu-Zant, who is also deputy of the minority Islamic Action Front, from delivering the sermon on Friday and appointed a moderate preacher, Sami al-Najjar, to speak.

According to officials a fist-fight broke out between supporters of Abu-Zant and al-Najjar inside the Abu-Hurayrah mosque prompting police to intervene and break up the fighting.

The cleric was hurt and hospitalised but his condition was not serious, a spokesman at the al-Husayn Medical Center hospital told AFP.

MP Hamzah Mansur of the Islamic Action Front charged that police had beaten up Abu-Zant in the fracas at the mosque in Amman's working class neighborhood of Hayy Nazzal.

Supporters of the accord, which ended 46 years of war between Jordan and Israel, shouted "You can't impose your opinion on the majority of us."

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The Islamic Action Front, the Muslim Brotherhood's political party, boycotted a speech Clinton gave to the Jordanian parliament on Wednesday, during which the U.S. president warned the "forces of terror" against derailing peace.

Professional Associations Urge Resistance to Treaty

JN2810113994 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Oct 94 p 21

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Ten professional associations—the Lawyers, Doctors, Dentists, Pharmacists, Veterinarians, Engineers, Agricultural Engineers, Nurses, and Geologists Associations and the Writers League—have said the Arab-Israeli conflict is a conflict of existence, not borders.

These associations issued a statement on the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty in which they stressed that the Arab nation's unity is the only means for confrontation, liberation, and steadfastness.

The statement says:

—The treaty is not an immediate political event, but the result of a calculated series, starting with the Madrid conference and ending with Wadi al-'Arabah, via Oslo, Cairo, and Washington. It has been agreed to consider this one of the Arab nation's several ill-omened days.

—The conferees agreed to prohibit dealings with the Zionist enemy under any pretext and in any field, whether through cooperation, meetings, or conferences. Any person [member of these associations] who violates this will be subject to professional accountability. The conferees also agreed to confront any legislation or law that infringes on public liberties, national sovereignty, and the supremacy of law .

—The conferees agreed to publish periodic bulletins and various leaflets to explain the dimensions of this treaty, as well as its threats against the national sovereignty and the damage it will inflict in the economic, political, social, and cultural fields.

—The conferees urge the commercial, industrial, and agricultural sectors in particular, and all citizens in general to boycott the Zionist entity. Any merchant, industrialist, farmer, or citizen who does not abide by that will be disowned and labelled a traitor.

—The conferees hope that the deputies of the nation will assume their historic responsibilities at this stage. They as representatives of the people are urged to refuse to ratify this treaty and to work on foiling it. They stress that the professional associations will boycott any deputy who votes in favor of the treaty.

—The professional associations, which have a long history of struggle for the Arab's main cause, Palestine, salute and support the march of jihad and struggle on the land of Palestine, represented by the resistance against settlement activities, occupation, and the Oslo-Cairo scheme that aims to erase the Arab character of Palestine. On this occasion, the conferees hail the heroes who sacrificed their lives on the land of Arab Palestine to crush the occupiers.

—The conferees urge the Arab and Muslim nations and the international organizations to pressure their regimes to end the siege imposed on our people in Iraq. This will help enh ce the march of resistance against settlement activities, occupation, and normalization.

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Al-Hirawi Urges Peace, Rejects 'Declaration'

MM2510161394 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Oct 94 p 8

[Report by 'Uthman al-'Umayr: "No to Renewal, No to Peace the Palestinian Way"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] Before proceeding to see his excellency the president, we had to pass through al-Hazimiyah, where Mrs. Na'ilah Mu'awwad lives. She and her husband Rene Mu'awwad [president-elect killed by a car bomb] would have been our target as president and first lady, and the destination would not have been her apartment in al-Hazimiyah.

But because of the car bombs and the remote control device, we found ourselves face to face with another man, [President] Ilyas al-Hirawi. [passage omitted]

He believes that what remains of his term should be devoted to "preparing Lebanon for the challenges of the peace process and the implementation of Resolution 425 in the South, and subsequently laying new foundations for the development and modernization of the departments of state in a way that will enable us to tackle the post-peace phase."

To further clarify what he was saying, his excellency the president added:

"Indeed, Lebanon cannot possibly accept a declaration of peace principles with Israel that would later place it in the same position as the Palestinians find themselves in now, with every article of those principles needing further agreements.

"What we would accept is a comprehensive and honorable peace, not just any peace, bearing in mind that our way does not require a declaration of principles. It requires agreement to implement Resolution 425. We have nothing to do with Resolutions 242 and 338, but we are in solidarity with the Arabs on their implementation."

The president, who hails from Zahlah, raised his tone of voice as he added: "Nobody is talking about the Lebanon of the future. Our position on this peace is to ask how we preserve the Lebanese formula in this process. Israel does not only want peace. It wants hegemony, and Lebanon would stand to lose most from that process. By Lebanon I mean Lebanese brains and skills, in the Gulf, in Africa, throughout the Arab world and even the entire world." These are fine words of a kind that I was hearing for the first time since my arrival in Lebanon.

The president continued: "I do not want to talk about internal matters. I am focusing on more important matters. There is the question of vocational and technological education in Lebanon, because Lebanon no longer needs medical, ideological, or literary specializations. We now have a doctor for every finger in Lebanon and as many writers. That is not normal. We want to develop vocational and technological education in order to be able to keep pace with the era and meet the challenges of peace, because we cannot, after peace, just become a market for Israeli technology. We had called for an Arab common market. What I fear most is that we could end up with a Middle East common market run by Israel, which is superior to us scientifically and technologically."

Was the president confident about peace?

He replied: With a U.S. guarantee, "yes.... Israel must withdraw from our territory and we must promise not to fire a single shot at it from our borders.... We are advocates of peace and we never waged war on Israel. Israel was the one which invaded Lebanese territory in 1968 and again in 1982, inflicting massive losses on Lebanon and the Arabs. We made that sacrifice for the sake of Palestine and the Arabs, but the Palestinians have concluded a peace unilaterally, and I fear that other Arab states could follow this unilateral approach, which weakens the Arab position."

The president, whom, as he says, Rabin hates—he says jokingly that Rabin's hatred does not bother him, but he wishes that that hatred was exclusively his and was not shared by Yasir 'Arafat—added: "Would an agreement like that concluded between the Palestinians and Israelis have been concluded if there had been Arab coordination? You cannot visit Gaza without prior Israeli approval. Would you accept a peace with Israel under which you would not be able to visit Lebanon without Israeli approval?"

I replied: Of course not, Mr. president. The president said that he feared that "a unilateral Arab approach on the question of the Arab boycott of Israel could have negative repercussions for the Arab League, which is these days celebrating its 50th anniversary."

That is President al-Hirawi—a man preoccupied with Lebanon's future image in the context of the changing realities.

Inwardly he suddenly stirs when you talk to him or ask him about renewal "and about a specific term of two or three years. That is unfounded talk and nonsense. I do not want that and I do not seek it.... I will refuse.... I have a right to say no." [passage omitted]

Buwayz Comments on al-Asad-Clinton Summit

NC2710140594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Oct 94

[News conference by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz with unidentified correspondents discussing the U.S.-Syrian summit; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Buwayz] Doubtless President Clinton's visit to Syria demonstrates Syria's position in the regional equation. The visit also shows that the Syrian file will soon be activated with the same force that

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was given to the other files. Hence the importance of the visit lies in the subject and in the timing too.

I believe that after establishing particular frameworks in the Palestinian file, though we still believe they are incomplete, and after the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli Accord, it is now time for the Syrian file to take center stage and come to the forefront of the U.S. effort.

We believe that the Lebanese file, which will benefit from any progress on the Syrian file, will take up its position on the negotiating table. I believe the visit is important because it can make dealing with the peace process at this stage a primary issue and, similarly, dealing with Syria's relations with the United States a primary issue too. These items are as important as each other.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] the Syrian and Lebanese files. [words indistinct] now that President Clinton is in Syria means more importance is being given to promoting the Syrian track to be followed by the Lebanese file?

[Buwayz] The issue has less to do with the importance of the file than it has to do with the timing of the files. When the Palestinian file was addressed first, that did not mean it had more importance than the Syrian track. It was just a matter of timing. When the Jordanian file was addressed yesterday, it was not an issue of it being more important than the other files. Again the timing played a major role in this regard. But there is no doubt that there are common issues and there is no doubt that resolving these issues on the Syrian side could positively reflect on the Lebanese file in a way that could help to address the Lebanese points.

[Correspondent] How does Lebanon view the Jordanian-Israeli agreement? Does it consolidate the peace process?

[Buwayz] When we said, after the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, that we believed that departing from Arab solidarity will benefit no one, certainly not the Palestinian brothers, we were accused of adopting a passive attitude toward the peace process. Later on we heard brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] speaking of disappointment with regard to the agreement. Today we hear the Palestinian leadership complaining about the Jordanian-Israeli agreement over the holy sites. It [the Palestinian leadership] is now alone without Arab cover or backing. He who has left Arab solidarity is now complaining of the absence of cover and backing. In this sense we still believe, more than ever, that the conflict was originally between the Arabs and Israel. No one can alone represent all the Arabs and no one alone in the Arab states can substitute for the collective Arab will. Thus we believe that completing this peace on every track is the only way to create a state of solid peace. As long as major files remain outside this cohesion and solid position, we believe that peace will remain prone to setbacks and to incomplete interpretations and judgments.

Samahah Makes Statement on Clinton's Damascus Visit

NC2710150094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement today Information Minister Michel Samahah said President Clinton's visit to Damascus is important. Samahah stressed that there are three basic phases in the peace talks. The Madrid conference represented the first of these phases and the second was represented by the Geneva summit between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton, when the U.S. President announced that Syria and Lebanon are trying to obtain their rights through peace. The information minister said that these rights are not individual rights. They are, rather, comprehensive Arab rights to end the dispute over all Arab rights, he added.

Continuing, Minister Samahah said consultations are continuing with the Syrian brothers and the Syrian information minister. A Lebanese media team is now in Damascus and will attend the news conference to be held after the talks.

Samahah stressed President al-Asad's credibility, stances, and commitments in his effort to achieve the just rights of the Arab people in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine despite the remarks made by the Jordanian and Palestinian leaders to the effect that the decision is a regional one. The dispute is Arab-Israeli and we have seen the results of all the previous separate agreements. We have not yet reached the peaceful, just, and all-out solution.

Samahah said another important step lies in Israel, because it is the other side that must give back the rights to the legitimate people. The U.S. side must also be clear and firm in demanding the requirements of peace.

Minister Says Security To Be Controlled

NC2710212994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Oct 94

[Statement by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Michel al-Murr after chairing a meeting of the Central Internal Security Council in Beirut on 27 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] The first meeting today, in which all security and military commands took part, took place at the Central Security Council. It was necessary to hold this meeting because, according to the law, the Central Security Council is to meet every month. I have been in the Interior Ministry for over a month. The interior minister is also the head of the Central Security Council. Therefore, it was necessary to call this meeting. The main issue of this meeting under the current circumstances in the region are to preserve calm in the Lebanese arena, because we should not be the party that creates confusion in the negotiations. Lebanon should not be

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causing confusion in the negotiations, which are making progress. Lebanon should not affect the course of the negotiations in the region.

The Central Security Council addressed this topic. We asked all the security and military agencies in the country to be the state's watchful eye and inform the state of everything that is happening in an absolute and accurate manner. At the same time, it should also be the executive power of the political authority so that this confusion we have spoken about does not happen. We want the security and military agencies in the country to be fully prepared not to allow any security violations affect the current stage.

European Troika Delegation Pays Visit

NC2710202894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The European troika delegation, which arrived in Beirut yesterday, today visited President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, and Deputy Chamber Speaker Elie al-Firzli and discussed with them the general situation, developments in the peace process, and the reconstruction of Lebanon. The head of the troika delegation, (Helmut Schaefer), announced after meeting President al-Hirawi that they discussed the peace process and Lebanon's expected future in it. He affirmed that Lebanon is no less important than the other countries in the region. It should play an active role in the peace process which will lead to its independence. Schaefer hoped the delegation's visit, which parallels U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to the region, proves that European countries—not just the United States—support the peace process. He added that the unified objective of the delegation's members from this visit is to exert all possible efforts to support the peace process and fight the terrorists and antipeace movements that are trying to obstruct this process. On the other hand, he highlighted the efforts of the European Union in supporting the reconstruction of Lebanon and rebuilding of Beirut.

'Resistance' Retaliates, Shells Israeli Positions

NC2610124094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Amid a maximum alert in the Israeli armed forces along the international borders with Lebanon, Israeli helicopters flew intensive sorties over south Lebanon and along the border up to the Syrian Golan heights throughout last night.

During the night, Israeli artillery in the eastern sector fired 15 rounds at Mimas road juncture in the liberated part of Hasbayya area and at the al-Dhar hills overlooking the western al-Biqa'. The situation remains tense in the south. At 1000, the Iqlim al-Tuffah heights, Mlita, and the al-Litani River basin came under a sporadic barrage from the Israeli positions in al-Zaffatah. The outskirts of Jarju', the Jabal Safi heights, and al-Luwayzah came under Israeli bombardment.

The resistance retaliated by shelling the Israeli positions in al-'Ayshiyah and al-Rayhan. A resistance group retaliated against the Israeli aggression at 1300 today. Its men fired eight Katyusha rockets at the Israeli settlements adjacent to the Lebanese borders, specifically at the eastern Galilee. The Israeli forces shelled the outskirts of al-Suwwanah and Majdal Silm with 155-mm howitzer fire. Israeli military aircraft staged mock raids over the area and made very low-altitude passes over the area.

Hizballah Fires 15 Shells at Security Zone

NC2710131894 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S.-Syrian summit in Damascus today was coupled with military escalation in the south, which some sources viewed as a politically motivated shelling.

Hizballah has claimed responsibility for shelling an al-Dabshah position in the central sector of the occupied border zone. A security source has explained that approximately 15 shells were fired at the position, some of which scored direct hits. A spokesman for the resistance has affirmed that the shelling destroyed the position's installations.

Following the operation, the Israeli artillery shelled the outskirts of al-Nabatiyah, forcing schools to close down. Artillery bombardment against Iqlim al-Tuffah hills has been reported, but there are no reports on casualties.

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Al-Asad, Clinton News Conference in Damascus

JN2710122794 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1055 GMT 27 Oct 94

[News conference held by U.S. President Bill Clinton and President Hafiz al-Asad with international journalists at the People's Palace in Damascus on 27 October—live; italicized passages in English with simultaneous Arabic translation, transcribed from English]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Asad] President Clinton, Ladies and Gentlemen: I am pleased to welcome President Clinton to Damascus, the oldest populated city in the world, and the heart of a region that witnessed the dawn of human civilizations, and the cradle of heavenly messages. This region—whose peoples have long suffered, especially throughout this century, from the horrors of war, the bitterness of conflict, and bloodshed—hopes at last to enjoy peace and stability.

This visit to our country by President Clinton, at the head of a high-level U.S. delegation, and the positive and fruitful talks we held today constitute an important step toward the realization of the noble goal to which the peoples of the region and the world at large aspire.

Our talks today focused on the various aspects of the peace process and its developments. In this regard, I would like to express my deep satisfaction with the fact that our viewpoints were identical regarding the importance of achieving a comprehensive peace on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace, and that the solution we seek has to be just in order to be stable and lasting.

I reaffirmed to President Clinton Syria's commitment to the peace process and its earnest endeavor to achieve a just and comprehensive peace as a strategic option to guarantee Arab rights; end Israeli occupation of the Arab territories in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425; and enable all people in the region to live in peace, security, and dignity.

I also reaffirmed to President Clinton Syria's readiness to commit itself to the objective requirements of peace, emanating from the principle of full withdrawal for full peace, through the establishment of normal peaceful relations ['alaqat salam 'adiyah] with Israel in exchange for full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights to the 4 June 1967 borderline and from southern Lebanon.

In this context, the statements by President Bill Clinton on the eve of his trip to the region, in which he stressed that there can be no comprehensive peace in the region without Syria, is a realistic expression of an internationally accepted fact. Our nation has sacrificed hundreds of thousands of martyrs, not out of love for war or fighting, but to defend its rights, dignity, and land.

That is why we aspire today to transform the region from a state of war into a state of peace—a peace that returns to each party its rights, ends occupation, saves the blood of the innocent, and protects human dignity; a peace that prevails throughout the region and enables the Arabs and the Israelis to live in security, stability, and prosperity.

Finally, I would like to convey through President Clinton greetings to the American people and to thank him for his personal efforts and those of his aides. I would like to voice my readiness to work with him to achieve a just, comprehensive, and genuine peace in the region. *Thank you.*

[Clinton] *I am glad to have the opportunity to stop in Syria to meet with President al-Asad. After yesterday's signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan, I came to Damascus today to continue working for our common goal, peace in the Middle East.*

During our meeting this morning, President al-Asad and I affirmed our common commitment to that goal and that to accelerate progress toward our objective.

Yesterday's signing represents an important step forward, but our job will not be done and we will not rest until peace agreements between Israel and Syria and Israel and Lebanon are achieved. A Syrian-Israeli agreement is key to achieving a comprehensive peace. Given Syria's important regional role, it will inevitably broaden the circle of Arab states willing to embrace peace and it will build confidence throughout the area that peace will endure.

My talks here with President al-Asad are a sign of our mutual determination to achieve the peace of the brave, as quickly as possible. The United States will do everything possible to help make that a reality.

For peace to endure, it must also be just. Peace between Israel and Syria must be based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the principle of land for peace. Peace must also be real, more than mere words on paper, more than just the absence of war. Nations must establish normal peaceful relations. Peace must also be secure for both sides. Security for one side should not come at the expense of the other's security. Peace must guarantee security against surprise attack by any side, and peace must enable the parties to invest in economic development rather than military might.

All sides must enjoy stability and tranquility. Violence must cease. Borders must no longer be subject to aggression, terrorist infiltration, violent acts, or bombardment. The murderous acts of terror that we have witnessed over the past weeks have two targets: First, innocent people who have been killed and wounded; and second, the very peace that President al-Asad supports. All who work for peace must condemn these terrorist acts. President al-Asad and I agree that the peace process allows no place for the killing of innocent civilians.

I also told President al-Asad of my desire to see the relations between our two nations improve. In an era of peace, improved relations will benefit both countries and improve regional stability and security.

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Finally, I want to tell the Syrian people how very glad I am to have the opportunity to visit your country, if only briefly. Like your neighbors in Israel, you have waited too long and have suffered too much to be further denied the hope for a new and better future.

On behalf of the American people, I pledge that I will work with President al-Asad to do everything possible to make real this new and peaceful future. Thank you.

[Thomas] *My name is Helen Thomas from the United Press International. I have a question to both presidents. President al-Asad: In the eyes of many you are the key to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East and you have now expressed the bottom line of what will be true peace in the Middle East. How do you intend to go about getting it and how soon will it occur? And President Clinton: Do you agree that there should be a full withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Golan Heights, from Lebanon, and Syrian troops from Lebanon, to make a real peace in the Middle East?*

[Clinton] *You want me to go first. [laughter] I think I answered the question in my statement. We believe that the peace between Israel and Syria must be based upon the United Nations Security Council resolutions. And we made some progress today in our own talks, the details of which, as you would expect, I am not free to discuss. But we are moving forward today, consistent with the United Nations Security Council resolutions, and we will continue to do so until we have a peace that is based on those resolutions.*

[Al-Asad] At any rate, for a long time now, we have been moving on the basis of a certain mechanism, which pushes us to complete the peace process, based, as President Clinton has said, on the UN Security Council resolutions and on several activities by the various parties, especially the United States. We have achieved certain things, failed to achieved others. We will continue the effort in the same way or in a more effective way, if we can find one, to achieve peace or to complete the peace process sooner.

[Al-Sayigh] President Bill Clinton, my name is Fayiz al-Sayigh from the Syrian Arab News Agency. You have had two summits with President Hafiz al-Asad this year. Can you evaluate the role played by President Hafiz al-Asad in the peace process and Syria's role in the region's security and stability.

[Clinton] *I didn't get the translation. Am I on the wrong channel? First, as I said, I think the role of Syria in the security and stability of the region is absolutely critical. I don't think we can finish a comprehensive peace or maintain peace in the region unless there is peace between Syria and Israel. And I think the benefits that would come to the people of both countries over the next several years are enormous if such a peace can be achieved. My view of President al-Asad, based on our two meetings and our many conversations over the telephone and his constant willingness to receive the secretary of state and other representatives of the United States, is that he is committed to achieving peace. He is, clearly, a very effective and determined advocate for the interests of his country and its people. But I believe he wants peace and I believe we will achieve it.*

[Unidentified correspondent] *Mr. al-Asad: The majority of the Israeli public does not believe, according to the polls, does not believe it is physically safe to give up the Golan Heights. This mistrust has been added by the fact that you have not visited Israel, you have not met with Mr. Rabin, there is no direct talks, you have not spelled out the exact terms of peace, your support for the rejectionists—10 rejectionist groups in Damascus and Hizballah—all this taken together, sir, I want to know what assurance can you give the Israeli public now that you are able to address them—through this press conference they could hear you—what assurance can you give them that withdrawal will indeed lead to true peace and not to the next war? Thank you very much.*

[Al-Asad] Security concerns do not make it justifiable for any world state to keep others' territory, or other states' territories. Moreover, throughout history, it has never been among the terms of peace for states that have been at war to visit or not visit each other. It is not a matter of formal compliments or visits. Even someone who visited Israel in the past had many complaints for a long time before he was able to reach a peace agreement with Israel. Never in history have we read about attempts to make peace depend on trivial, formal matters such as whether or not to exchange visits, on security concerns for either side, or demanding that one side must reach or help reach a state of tranquility and calm the fears of the other. We have nothing to prove our desire for peace except our saying that we want peace. He who does not believe what we have said has no path to peace. It is he who does not want peace. Is there anything to make us believe that they want peace? We have many pieces of evidence that prove that it is they, rather than us, who do not want peace. Such matters, to some extent, were the subject of discussions between President Clinton and myself. We are both confident, I believe, we are confident that the United States is serious about advancing the peace process. As you heard from President Clinton, he has the conviction and impression that we are serious. Why are the others not convinced? It should be remarked that I have heard statements by Israeli officials that Syria is serious about the peace process. I remember that I heard that Rabin—I hope my memory is accurate in this regard—stated that Syria is serious about the peace process. Then, who has fears?

[Qabalan] *Nidal Qabalan, the Middle East Broadcasting Center [MBC], London. My question is to President Clinton: Mr. President: In your speech today you emphasized the significance of security for both sides; i.e. Syria and Israel. On numerous occasions, Israeli leaders have sought preferential and rather advantageous security arrangements and a precondition for any peace pact with Syria. It is common knowledge that Israel possesses a*

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huge arsenal of both conventional and mass destruction weapons and refuses to sign the nuclear arms nonproliferation treaty. How do you explain your endorsement of any future package of security arrangements in view of Israel's illogical and unacceptable preconditions?

[Clinton] *First of all, I do not have to explain it because there won't be a peace agreement until both sides agree on security measures. And these are measures that to some extent are objective and to some extent are based on intuition—the feeling about what the possible future threats to Syria and to Israel are. But the United States has absolutely no hesitation in facilitating an open and straightforward exchange on those issues. Both sides will have to be satisfied that their security needs are met. And it has been my experience that countries and particularly their leaders are the best judge of what their security requirements are. I do not believe for a moment that President al-Asad and Prime Minister Rabin would agree to a peace that would undermine the security of either nation. I think both of them will feel that they are more safe after the agreement rather than less safe. That to me is the ultimate answer to this question.*

[Correspondent] *Mr. President, Secretary Christopher said that leaders, presidents like yourself, are capable of bold moves that negotiators and diplomats are not able to make. Can you tell us whether any bold moves were made today that you can report in terms of agreements on the Golan Heights or peace or terms of security?*

[Clinton] *Well, let me restate what I said earlier. First of all, I respect and I welcome the statement that President al-Asad has made here today, which goes beyond—in my judgment—the public diplomacy initiatives which have been made in the past, and I think that that statement should be reassuring to the people of Israel and should encourage more dialogue and a greater willingness to pursue the peace process. Secondly, in our private discussions there was some progress made, the details of which I will not and I should not discuss at this time, but we are moving forward. I will obviously see Prime Minister Rabin. We will have a frank and open discussion as we always do and we'll do what we can to keep moving forward.*

[Walid Shihadah from the SYRIA TIMES] *Mr. President Clinton, I have a question for you, please. On numerous occasions, the United States has stressed commitment to Israel's security and has provided Israel with all forms of financial and military support. How would you, Mr. President, reconcile your role as an honest intermediary in the peace process and your different way of dealing with Syria since the outset of the peace process has confirmed her seriousness and positive attitude to make the process successful? Thank you.*

[Clinton] *The commitment of the United States to the security of Israel is something that goes back a long way, is of long standing, and it is given as a part of our foreign policy. I think that notwithstanding that commitment, President al-Asad and all others in the Middle East who have dealt with us in this peace process would say that we have done our best—not just me, but especially the secretary of state, Mr. Ross, and others—to be an honest intermediary to carry the legitimate concerns of the various parties, to try to help them to make peace. I would say to you, if I might, what I said in the previous answer: This peace agreement will never occur unless Israel and Syria sign with the absolute conviction that they would be more secure for signing it, not less secure. So, whatever the details of the ultimate security arrangements are in this peace treaty, if it is signed by the leaders of both countries, it will only be because they are both convinced that they will be safer after they sign than they are before, and we will support that in any reasonable way that we can.*

[Correspondent] *President al-Asad: President Clinton referred to terrorism earlier. As you are aware, the United States keeps Syria on its list of countries that sponsor terrorism. Did you in this discussion promise not to sponsor terrorism any more? Did you acknowledge that you in fact do, and can you tell us what the Syrian view is of terrorist activities?*

[Al-Asad] We have not discussed the issue of terrorism as a separate subject. In the course of the conversation, I mentioned some incidents or discussions between us or between me personally and some U.S. officials about accusing Syria of sponsoring terrorism. I said that I asked an American official at that time to mention to me a single incident in which Syria committed a terrorist act. He could not provide or mention a single incident. As is known, terrorism is a charge leveled at us due to the conflict between us and Israel. This is a fact. Every one of you, in my opinion, Arabs or non-Arabs, knows that the reason for the charge of terrorism is not because the Syrians and those in Syria practice terrorist acts, but for reasons related to its position on Israel. Therefore, this charge dragged on. Despite the desire of many individuals and officials in Syria and the United States at various times to solve this problem, we have not yet reached a solution. In any case, this was not at all one of the topics listed on the agenda in my discussions with President Clinton. We discussed more important topics and our attention was focused on the peace process. Had it not been for the short time, I would have asked you all: Do any of you have any evidence to prove that Syria has undertaken a single terrorist act? I am not posing this as a question now because there is no time for this now.

[Clinton] *I do think that my only comment has two points. First of all: I said and I believe that President al-Asad agrees that if we are going to have peace in the region, and a peace agreement is made, then supporting those who try to undermine a peace that is made is inconsistent with that, particularly if they try to undermine it with terrorist tactics. Secondly, we do not, we cannot, and we will not support the killing of innocent civilians, and, President al-Asad has said it repeatedly and said to me, I mean today, that he thought that was wrong as well, wherever it occurred, whether in the bus incident or in Hebron. So, we did discuss it in that context. I am*

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here because I believe strongly that the best way to bring an end to terrorism in this part of the world is to achieve a comprehensive peace. And, I believe that we should keep working at it until we get the job done.

[Khayr-al-Wadi] Mr. President Clinton, I am Muhammad Khayr-al- Wadi from the newspaper TISHRIN. You have said many times that achieving progress on the Syrian track is the basis for a just and comprehensive settlement in the region. Events have shown that the stalemate on this track is due to Israel's refusal to fully withdraw from the Golan and southern Lebanon. Mr. President, do you believe that this obstacle can be surmounted during your visit to Israel? Thank you.

[Clinton] *No, I don't believe we will announce a peace treaty on this visit. I don't believe we will finish the job on this visit. I do know we have made some progress here, and I expect to make some progress in Israel. I believe, and I have told all the parties in the Middle East this—that we should build on what's happened and try to accelerate this peace process, not slow it down. The people of Israel have been shaken by the incidents in the last couple of weeks, but I also think they must have been lifted up by the signing yesterday with Jordan, and they also should have been encouraged by President al-Asad's speech to the parliament, by Foreign Minister al-Shar'a interview on Israeli Television, by the statement that President al-Asad made here today. So, now I wish we were signing a peace treaty on this trip. We won't do it, but we are making progress.* [Arabic translation of preceeding paragraph ends with antepenultimate sentence after ///to the parliament///.]

[Unidentified correspondent] *Do you, one more question President Clinton, do you.....[question incomplete]*

[Clinton] *Thank you.*

Damascus Summit Said To 'Complement' Geneva Summit

JN2810082794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0552 GMT 28 Oct 94

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The three Damascus papers issued this morning devote their banner headlines and commentaries to the talks between President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Damascus.

The following banner headlines appear on the front pages of today's papers: "Presidents al-Asad and Clinton Discuss in Three Meetings the Syrian Track and the Elements of an Integrated Solution Based on UN Resolutions;" "President al-Asad Says: Our Positive Talks Are an Important Step Toward the Realization of Our Objective To Achieve Peace and Stability. We Both Had Identical Views on the Importance of Achieving a Just, Comprehensive Peace on the Basis of UN Resolutions. Syria Ready to Commit Itself to the Objective Requirements of Peace in Return for Israel's Full Withdrawal From the Golan and Southern Lebanon;" "President Clinton Says: Syria's Role Extremely Important and There Is No Peace Without Syria. President al-Asad Wants Peace and Defends his People's Rights and Interests. We Cannot Make a Comprehensive Peace Without Syria. Syria Has Important and Key Role. Improving Bilateral Ties Benefits Both Countries and Enhances Regional Stability. We have Achieved Some Progress and We will Continue Working for a Just and True Peace;" "The Damascus Summit Draws Arab and World Interest;" "Political Personalities and Arab and International News Media Stress Summit Indication of Syria's Key Role in the Building of Peace;" "Historic Meeting and Strategically Important Event;" "President al-Asad the Most Seasoned Politician in the World;" "The Summit Reflects Syria's Leading Arab and Regional Role;" "Comprehensive Peace Can Be Achieved Through Full Withdrawal From the Golan and Southern Lebanon;" "President Clinton Tells Journalists Aboard the Presidential Plane: President al-Asad Tough Negotiator and Trustworthy Person;" "Christopher says: There Is Tangible Progress on the Talks Between President al-Asad and President Clinton;" "President Clinton Holds a Closed Meeting with Rabin and Says: We Have Achieved Progress in Peace Talks;" "King Husayn Assures the Likud Leader;" "Angry Demonstrations in Occupied Territory Denounce the Jordanian-Israeli Treaty;" "Egypt Says Jordan's Leasing of Land Dangerous Precedent;" "The Arab League Regrets Easing the Boycott of Israel."

Now over to the commentaries and political analyses. In a comment today, AL-THAWRAH discusses the summit—the major event—which was held yesterday between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Bill Clinton. The paper says that the summit—the second between the two presidents within 10 months—is in itself a major international and regional event. It was held against the backdrop of the national and pan-Arab constants governing Syria's quest for a just, comprehensive peace that is built on the Madrid formula and the resolutions of international legitimacy.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the summit acquires special and exceptional importance in view of the nature of the current phase and the serious challenges still facing the peace process and obstructing its progress, especially on the most important tracks—the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. This is also in view of the urgent need to overcome the obstacles and clear the mines from the path of the peace process.

The paper says: The talks between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton and their discussions on all issues related to the conflict and the peace process complement the historic Geneva summit and what the two presidents agreed about regarding the joint commitment to continue work to lead the peace process to its aspired objective of achieving a just, comprehensive

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peace. Such a peace will not materialize unless Israel fully withdraws from the Golan and southern Lebanon. Hence the importance of the role of the U.S. partner and the need to activate this role to achieve rights and apply the resolutions of international legitimacy.

In another comment headlined "The Credible Stand," AL-THAWRAH discusses the news conference that President Hafiz al-Asad held with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Damascus yesterday. In the news conference, President Hafiz al-Asad reiterated Syria's commitment to the peace process and its earnest endeavor to establish a just, comprehensive peace as a strategic option. Such peace must guarantee Arab rights and end the occupation in accordance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions and enables all peoples of the region to live in peace, security, and dignity.

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Afghanistan

Hekmatyar Urges Government of 'Neutral Personalities'

LD2710210994 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Hekmatyar, leader of the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan, met yesterday with esteemed Mahmoud Mestiri, [words indistinct]. At this meeting Brother Hekmatyar expressed his view regarding the resolution of the country's current crisis.

The correspondent of the Radio Message of Freedom reports that Brother Hekmatyar said the following: As far as the High Coordination Council is concerned, we will agree to every plan that takes care of our nation's wishes and views. We want a commission, consisting of members from all sides and the jihadi formations, to be set up with full authority. Regarding the provisional government I say that it [should consist] of neutral personalities. Such individuals, at least, should be acceptable to all and should have no prejudice against the parties.

Brother Hekmatyar added: In this regard I believe that an election should be held. [words indistinct] Brother Hekmatyar added: I think it is a difficult task to agree on an elected shura. Such shuras are always [sentence unfinished]. For example there were the Hal wa 'Aqd Shura [Resolution and Settlement Council], the Herat Shura, and the Rawalpindi Shura.

Brother Hekmatyar said: We [words indistinct] should set up a system for the country that gives the nation time for the formation of [words indistinct].

Brother Hekmatyar added: We agree to a cease-fire but such a cease-fire must be part and parcel of a permanent [word indistinct] and nationwide settlement of difficulties. I agree to the notion that the roads should be opened, but this should again be part and parcel of a permanent settlement. I am confident that the difficulties can be settled in a short period, provided one is honest about the issue.

Esteemed Mahmoud Mestiri then thanked brother Hekmatyar for his good intentions regarding the settlement of issues in his country and for receiving him. Mestiri briefed brother Hekmatyar regarding the former's talks with others, and then they held a comprehensive discussion.

The report adds that esteemed 'Abdol Ahad Karza'i then spoke and said: We notice good intentions in your conversation and we hope to be able to find a comprehensive and realistic solution to the current crisis.

Our correspondent adds: Esteemed Satar Serat [former minister of justice] then spoke and said: We hope that Mahmoud Mestiri's mission will play a worthwhile role for the settlement of issues [words indistinct]. Dr. Mohammad Yusof, former prime minister, then said: You have the honor for the disintegration of the former Soviet Union's empire. The [Muslim] nation outside or inside the country will remember this.

Esteemed Dr. 'Abdol Samad Hamid, former deputy prime minister, then spoke and in part of his conversation he said: I am with you in saying that a provisional government should be set up in the country, a permanent cease-fire should be consolidated and the roads should be opened.

Esteemed Soltan Mahmud Ghazi, [cousin of ex-king Zahir] then spoke.

The report adds that brother Hekmatyar patiently heard the views and opinion of the Afghan personalities and intellectuals, and he said: We are prepared to sit down with all relevant parties and hold talks either directly or [words indistinct] to find a political solution. Brother Hekmatyar added: [words indistinct] still we are ready for talks to find a political solution.

According to another report, brother Hekmatyar, leader of the country's Islamic revolution, returned to Chahar Asiab yesterday morning. [words indistinct]

Minister Condemns Uzbekistan's 'Interference'

LD2710183594 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At a glorious meeting held recently in the Ministry of Education and Training, Uzbekistan's interference in our country's internal affairs was denounced.

At this meeting, attended by personnel and staff of this ministry, esteemed Mowlawi Jalilollah Mowlawizada, minister of education and training, in his talk on the UN's historical role, strongly denounced Uzbekistan's aggression against our country. He called on the United Nations to stop the alien interference and aggression against the sacred sanctity of Afghanistan on the basis of the fundamental principles of the United Nations' Charter.

The minister of education and training added: If foreign interference in our country's internal affairs is not stopped, the mojahed nation of Afghanistan, which in the past has always displayed resistance and bravery against every foreign aggression, will again be able to give a painful response to them.

Faction Leaders Mojaddedi, Mazari Hold Talks

LD2710181094 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, leader of the [Jabha-ye] Nejat-e Meli [National Salvation Front] met with esteemed Ustad

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'Abdol 'Ali Mazari, leader of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party].

The correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom reports that esteemed Hazrat-e Sebghatollah Mojaddedi arrived yesterday morning in the west of Kabul. He met with esteemed Ustad Mazari, leader of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, in his office. At this meeting, attended by a number of the commanders of the High Coordination Council, talks were held on the country's political and military situation.

Islamic Unity Party, Islamic Movement Reach Accord

LD2710201994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The high decision-making council of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] and Harekat-e Eslami of Afghanistan [Islamic Movement of Afghanistan], held a session this morning.

After discussion and consideration of important issues, the session made decisions on cooperation between the Harekat-e Eslami and the Wahdat-e Eslami parties. An agreement was concluded on this subject.

India

Restrictions on Imported Consumer Goods To Be Lifted

BK2810090194 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 20 Oct 94 p 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] THE FINANCE minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, has indicated that restrictions on import of consumer goods will be lifted because the world will not accept India's selective approach on this front.

Stating this while inaugurating the 89th annual general meeting of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) here on Wednesday, Dr Singh said a restrictive approach would make India a paradise of smugglers.

Calling for a nation-wide consensus on the value-added tax (VAT) system, he suggested that states should move towards VAT at the earliest. When countries such as Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have moved towards it successfully, even India should not stay away from it, he said.

The VAT system would cover the entire manufacturing sector in the country, he said.

Once fully implemented, it is expected to give a real boost to the domestic manufacturing industry in a big way and allow it to become more competitive in international markets, he said.

While admitting that certain anomalies existed in the tax structure, he urged business persons to pay taxes honestly. He also called for a nationwide awareness on tax evasion as a social evil.

If India has to grow economically, socially and democratically, it must project and prepare itself as a global player, he said.

"It is no longer money, but thinking capacity and efficient use of money which will determine the shape of the Indian economy in the next three years", he said.

The PHDCCI president, Mr Vineet Virmani, and the incoming president, Mr R K Saboo, also spoke.

Paper Views Defense, Commercial Uses for PSLV

BK2710130994 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 20 Oct 94 p 9

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DELHI—A long, tough road lies ahead for India to convert the success of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle [PSLV]-Development 2 into either a commercial venture or for defence application.

While Saturday's flawless development flight and precise positioning of the 804 kg remote sensing satellite into its orbit, 800 kms away has catapulted India into a select club of five nations, the transition from a R and D [Research and Development] effort into a commercial venture entails launching activity at a much greater pace.

According to experts here, two to three more PSLV launches are necessary before India can actually enter the intensely competitive but lucrative satellite market. ISRO's [Indian Space Research Organization] planned schedule, for the moment comprises of one launch each year.

Saturday's flight, it must be pointed out is the first one, which has been entirely successful. PSLV-D1 launched in September 1993 was not able to place the remote sensing satellite into its orbit, with the flight lasting just over 12 minutes.

While most of the systems including the propulsion systems performed well during the flight, the guidance and control processor malfunctioned. That error has now been rectified.

PSLV's success is simultaneously expected to trigger off greater US pressure which on the pretext of missile proliferation, has been used to obstruct India's space programme.

Under the US Extended Proliferation Control initiative, both the PSLV and the bigger, and more ambitious Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV), are targeted for a ban on transfer of technology.

Having stopped supply of the Russian cryogenic engine, the US has already caused a two-year delay in the satellite programme. The cryogenic engines meant for

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the GSLV has no use for the missile programme, indicating clearly that the pressure is as much on restricting India's space programme as is the missile.

While much is being made out of the PSLV as a test-bed for producing Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM), scientists here maintain that the country is as yet, a long way off from such awesome capabilities.

The real test of a missile capability is its re-entry stage, heat shield and guidance. While the PSLV has been successfully fired into space, an ICBM, by its very nature has to return to earth, and it is that stage when it re-enters the atmosphere, that its ability to withstand the overwhelming heat is tested.

Iran

President Returns to Tehran From Turkmenistan

LD2710174994 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani who had travelled to Turkmenistan to participate in that country's independence celebration arrived in Tehran few minutes ago and was welcomed by civil and military officials at Mehrabad Airport.

Says 'Positive Decisions' Made

LD2710230294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] After his arrival in Tehran tonight, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said he had held positive talks with the presidents of Turkmenistan, Turkey, and Azerbaijan, as well as the Pakistani prime minister in Ashgabat.

The president said: Discussions in these meetings included various issues of the Muslim world including those of Iraq and Bosnia as well as the issues of Caucasia and Karabakh. Furthermore useful discussions were held and agreements were reached regarding bilateral and multilateral cooperation with these countries, in particular within the framework of ECO, the Economic Cooperation Organization.

The president added that in the meeting with Mrs. Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistani prime minister, discussions were held regarding the oil pipeline, construction of an oil refinery and further ECO cooperation, while talks with Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev included issues of cooperation for ending the war in Karabakh and the Caucasia region as well as Caspian Sea issues—and we made positive decisions.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized the importance of the independence of the Muslim Central Asian and Caucasian republics, and he said: In Turkmenistan people are fond of their independence and I found them to be extremely good spirited, cheerful, and with discipline worthy of praise. This shows how well they will defend their independence.

Among those welcoming Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani were the vice president, the ministers of health and jihad construction, the head of the Sound and Vision and other officials of the country. [passage omitted]

Rowhani on Relations with U.S., Europe

LD2710150094 Tehran IRNA in English 1427 GMT 27 oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA—Secretary of the High Council of National Security and head of the national security Hasan Rowhani said that Iran-U.S. relations has further soured under the Clinton administration, due to the fact that Democrates are under Zionist influence.

Interviewed by the morning English-language daily IRAN NEWS on Thursday [27 October], Rowhani noted that Iran was not concerned about the intensity of its hostility with the U.S., "Rather we, in principle, reject any relations with the U.S."

Referring to Iran's relations with the European countries, Rowhani, also head of foreign policy commission of Majlis, said that the countries could be divided into two groups those who seek to free Europe from U.S. meddling, like France and Germany, and those who support its domination of Europe such as Britian.

"Our main problem is related to the second group headed by Britain. London feels that if it breaks away from the U.S. Britain would cecome a second-rate power in Europe."

He added "It is not to the interest of London to lose its economic, political and cultural ties with Iran because of Washington's pressure and interference."

Asked on the agreement to transfer Turkmenistan's gas to Europe via Iran, Rowhani regretted that there were some western countries which feared the stability of the newly-independent Central Asian republics and were not pleased with Iran's active presence in the region. "So, they sabotaged our cooperation efforts with neighboring states," he added.

He made it clear that Iran would not allow foreign states to make decisions on its behalf in the region.

As for Azerbaijan's agreement with the West on exploitation of the Caspian Sea oil resources, rowhani told the paper that Russia believed that the sea-bed resources of the Caspian Sea should be "jointly exploited by the five littoral states," including Iran. "This point of view, if accepted would nullify all pacts drawn between Baku and the West. So long as this matter is not explicitly resolved, the westerners would not be able to invest in the region," argued the official.

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He noted that reason for the crash of the Asseman passenger plane on October 11 was not found. At the altitude of 18,000 feet, the tail of the plane was cut off due to unkown reasons. The plane exploded in midair due to change in pressure. "So far we have not reached a definite conclusion as to why the plane's tail was cut off," said the official.

On the issue of price hikes and the campaign against profiteering, Rowhani told the daily that the mass media and the entire population are duty-bound to support the campaign.

Friday Prayer Imam Assails U.S. Military Presence

LD2810112494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In his sermons today, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani, the acting Friday prayer imam of Tehran, referred to the day of confronting global arrogance, 4 November, and called on the Muslim nation of Iran to commemorate that day—next Wednesday—in a magnificent fashion, and thereby display their resolve against the conspiracies of the great satan, America.

Today's Friday prayer preacher referred to America's military presence in the region, and said: The aim of the global arrogance is to spread the domination of international Zionism over the world of Islam. However, vigilant nations, in particular the Iranian nation, will stand up against such conspiracies.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani also said that the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy entails dialogue, cooperation, and understanding with the Persian Gulf littoral states and Islamic countries. The Islamic system does not need help from foreigners and it will resolve its problems by itself.

The acting Friday prayer imam of Tehran alluded to the compromise treaty between Israel and Jordan, and said: America's objective from these moves is to bring the Islamic world's economies under the control of Israel.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani then said that the roots of the problem of high prices has to found. He added: The entry of contraband goods into the country can deliver a heavy blow to the Iranian economy. He called on the committee charged with supervising prices to refrain from applying too much or too little zeal in carrying out their supervisory work.

Commentary on Tehran's Mediation in Afghanistan

LD2010211494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 20 Oct 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The director general of West Asian Affairs of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Mr. Mir-Mahmud Musavi, who has been staying in Afghanistan since October 18th, has begun new efforts on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran to solve the Afghan crisis. To reach this end, the Iranian delegation scheduled during the course of its stay in Afghanistan to meet separately the Afghan leaders, including President Borhanoddin Rabbani, Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, as well other Afghan Jihad leaders, to survery the current developments in their country and bring an end to the Afghan crisis.

Informed political sources introduce [as heard] Afghanistan as a country which has been involved in a civil war plus ethnic difference for years. This despite the Afghan nation's records of past struggles against the aggression of alien enemies has today produced many problems in the way of security and stability in the country. The past two and half years of clashes between various Afghan groups after alien forces were pushed out of that country have so far led to the death of a large number of innocent people and further destruction in their country. This matter ,undoubtedly will leave behind negative consequences in the Afghan history.

It should be stated in this regard that the war experience in Afghanistan has proved that military means are unable to solve the differences between the clashing sides and this solution has practically remained useless, causing only much destruction. Today the Afghan jihad groups should take into consideration and leave their ethnic and probably private problems aside and seriously pay attention to the interests of the Muslim and tyrannized nation of Afghanistan.

The efforts made by the Islamic Republic of Iran to bring an end to clashes between the Afghan groups have always been based on the principle that the political groups in Afghanistan should take measure to find a reasonable solution to the distribution of power in that country through political means. In this regard Iran has repeatedly announced preparedness to assist all groups in Afghanistan which make attempt through coordination and unity for the sake of their country. The visit of Mr. Musavi to to Afghanistan is worth pondering in this regard.

'Intellectuals' Condemn 'Censorship and Harassment'

NC2510151294 Paris AFP in English 1440 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 25 (AFP)—More than 130 of Iran's best-known writers and other intellectuals have condemned "censorship and harassment" by the state in an open letter obtained Tuesday [25 October] by AFP.

The letter, signed by 134 writers, poets and translators currently living in Iran, also called for an independent trade union to "restore freedom of thought" in the country.

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"When the struggle against obstacles to reading and thinking go beyond the capabilities of the individual, it is necessary to confront them in a collective way and on a professional level," the letter said.

This would help to "restore freedom of thought, expression and publication, and to fight collectively against censorship," it said.

"That is why the creation of a writers' association would help to guarantee our individual freedom."

The letter was sent to the Iranian press, the ministry of culture and Islamic affairs and several writers' associations abroad including Pen Club International.

The academics criticised the "condemnation of writers in the name of morality or ideology" as well as "anti-democratic practices" used by Iranian authorities against them.

"Criticising a writer's work is normal, but prying into his private life on the pretext of criticising his work amounts to an attack on the writer himself," they wrote.

Iran has no censorship of books and newspapers prior to publication. But the authors of work judged too critical or running counter to the regime's ideology regularly find themselves subject to police or administrative harassment, and can even be jailed.

The import and circulation of foreign books is subject to strict censorship, as are authorised translations of foreign works.

Security, Intelligence Official Killed in Accident

LD2310142694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1230 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mohammad 'Ali Nazaran, head of the chief of staff's general office for security and intelligence, and head of the prisoner of war committee, was killed in a road accident yesterday on the road to the holy city of Mashhad.

His funeral procession will take place at 1000 tomorrow from the office of the chief of staff.

Embassy Threatens To Sue Austrian Paper Over Report

LD2810110094 Tehran IRNA in English 1018 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vienna, Oct. 28, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy here in a statement Thursday threatened that it would sue the Austrian daily "NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG" for publishing baseless and false allegations against Iran.

In a press release, the embassy said that it was going to deal legally with such acts.

It said that the daily had misinterpreted the remarks of the Argentinian President Carlos Menem and deduced wrong conclusions out of them.

In its 21 October issue, NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG published an article under the title "Bloody Terror in the Middle East, Do the Footprints Lead to Iran? " in bold letters.

The statement added that the daily was encouraged to make the false allegations against Iran by certain circles, saying that it was obliged to print the statement by the Iranian Embassay rejecting the allegations according to the press laws.

Pakistan

First Party-Based Northern Council Election Held

BK2510142094 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] People in the northern areas went to the first-ever polls to elect the 24-member Northern Areas Council [today]. The elections were held for the first time on party basis under a package of reforms approved by the federal government. PTV correspondents Nazir Tabassum and Sajid Shah report from Skardu and Gilgit of long queues seen at polling stations. Women also participated enthusiastically in the election. One hundred and thirty-nine candidates from major political parties are contesting the 24 seats in five districts. Pakistan People's Party [PPP] has fielded 21 candidates, while Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group and Tehrik-i-Jafria fielded 17 and 11 candidates respectively. Mr. Mohammad Iqbal of PPP has been elected unopposed from district (Ghanche). One independent candidate from Diamir District died in an accident in Chilas. Official results will be announced on Saturday [29 October]; however unofficial results are expected tonight.

Unofficial Results Announced

BK2610114094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The election commissioner of northern areas has formally announced 23 unofficial results out of 24 seats of the Northern Areas Council elections held yesterday. According to details of the results, Pakistan People's Party [PPP] bagged so far seven seats, Tehrik-i-Jafria-i-Pakistan eight, PML [Pakistan Muslim League]-Nawaz Group one, and independents seven seats. The result of one constituency of Gilgit District is awaited, in which the PPP candidate has considerable lead over PML-Nawaz Group candidate.

Army To Be Maintained in Sindh Until Peace Restored

BK2710084094 Karachi DAWN in English 26 Oct 94 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Oct 25—A meeting chaired by President Farooq Ahmad Leghari on Tuesday

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[25 October] decided to maintain army presence in Sindh till the restoration of peace to the troubled province, a source told DAWN.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Army Chief General Abdul Waheed and Defence Minister Aftab Shahban Mirani to discuss the internal and external security affairs of the country, the source said.

The three heads reportedly discussed the internal situation in particular reference to recurrence of violence in Karachi coupled with sectarian clashes in the southern port city.

The source said they agreed that some foreign hands were involved in the Karachi disturbances, specially in cases of firing by masked people.

It was decided to crush such incidents with an iron hand and to keep the army in the troubled province as long as it was required by the civil administration for maintaining peace and order.

Sindh Chief Minister Abdullah Shah had hinted earlier that army troops would be withdrawn by December from his province and would be replaced by a newly raised and highly-trained special police force.

The Prime Minister reportedly briefed the meeting about the political measures taken by her government to normalise situation in Sindh. She specially mentioned her Rs 102 billion economic package for the development of Karachi.

She informed the meeting about the progress of talks with saner elements of the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] and hoped that differences between the urban and rural Sindhis would be settled amicably in the near future.

On the external front, the source said, the meeting reviewed the external threats faced by the country in the form of widespread terrorism.

The meeting was of the opinion that a neighbouring country was involved in such acts of terrorism to divert the international community's attention from the secessionist movements in its own territory.

The source said the meeting considered in depth the growing repression in the Indian-held Kashmir against the freedom fighters and massive human rights violations by the Indian troops in the held Valley.

It was decided to pursue the Kashmir issue at all available international forums, including the UN General Assembly session where opposition leader Nawaz Sharif is expected to lead the Pakistani delegation.

Following a statement by opposition leader Nawaz Sharif that he would consider leading Pakistani delegation to the United Nation's General Assembly, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has already directed the Foreign Office to make arrangements for Sharif's visit.

The Prime Minister informed the meeting that there was an urgent need to show national consensus on Kashmir issue as was displayed by India at the Human Rights Commission at Geneva where Indian opposition leader had led his side.

The defence needs of the army were also discussed at length, and the prime minister briefed the meeting that the government would equip the armed forces at every cost. She said the defence of the country was of supreme importance and was on the top priority of her government's agenda. The source said President Farooq Leghari expressed his satisfaction over the defence preparedness of the armed forces and lauded their role in times of peace and war.

Asif Reviews Talks With Russia's Chernyschev

BK2510103394 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 25 Oct 94 p 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Oct 24 (APP): Pakistan and Russian Federation Monday held two-hour talks on the entire gambit of their relations particularly ironed out the details about the forthcoming visit of the Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to Russia. [sentence as published]

This was stated by Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmed Ali while talking to a group of newsmen here Monday.

Sardar Asif said he held talks with Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia Chernyschev who flew in the capital Monday for a few days visit. "We discussed entire gambit of relations between the two countries including Kashmir, Afghanistan, talks on Tajikistan and details" about the visit of the Prime Minister to Moscow next month. The dates had yet to be finalized between the two sides, he said.

Asif said "there was a shift in Russian policy on Kashmir, it is now even handed which is encouraging for us". He discussed the issue of Kashmir with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister and noted with satisfaction the change in their policy, said the Foreign Minister. Russia now wanted both the concerned countries to resolve the issue under the Simla Accord, he added.

Pakistan was interested in purchase of defence equipment and aeroplane from Russia the Foreign Minister said. He said a defence team from Pakistan was already visiting Russia and will return soon. He said the defence team from Russia was also likely to visit Pakistan.

He said that he also discussed matters of mutual interest with his Russian counterpart during their meeting in New York where both of them had gone to attend the UN current session.

On the UN sponsored intra-Tajik talks being held here, Asif Ahmed Ali said these were progressing well and

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Pakistan was satisfied with it. The Foreign Minister said he was "optimistic that very important developments will take place as there was enormous spirit and responsibility on both sides".

However, he made it clear that Pakistan was using its good office as it cannot interfere in the internal affairs of Tajikistan and enjoyed good relations both with the Government and the Tajik Opposition. "Both are friends of Pakistan", he added.

On opening of road link to Central Asian States through Afghanistan, he said over 20 trucks load of medicines, rice, X-rays machines and other items will leave soon for Kandhar and Herat.

Replying to a question on the possibility of the leader of the Opposition leading Pakistani delegation at UN, Asif hoped that Nawaz Sharif by keeping aside the domestic differences would lead the delegation. 'Once he is there to lead the delegation he can advise us', he added.

New Joint Staff Committee Chairman Appointed

BK2610121494 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan has been appointed as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee in place of General Shamim Alam Khan, who is retiring with effect from the 9th of next month on completion of his tenure. This was officially announced in Rawalpindi today. Air Marshal Mohammad Abbas Khattak has been appointed as chief of the air staff from the same date. He will be granted the rank of air chief marshal on assumption of appointment.

PRC Workers Halt Job on Canal After 'Heavy Firing'

BK2710090494 Karachi DAWN in English 26 Oct 94 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Quetta, Oct 25—The Chinese engineers stopped work on the pat feeder canal extension project after heavy firing at one of their camps in Jaffarabad district, on Monday night, official sources said.

They said unidentified persons opened indiscriminate fire on the Chinese engineers who were working on the project near the [name indistinct] area of pat feeder canal. No loss of life was reported.

The Chinese engineers, soon after the firing, refused to work on the project and shifted to Dera Murad Jamali.

District administration of Jaffarabad, confirming the incident, said heavy contingent of Balochistan Reserve police and Levies were disptached to the area to capture the attackers.

Sri Lanka

Opposition Confirms Ex-Prime Minister as Leader

BK2810084694 Hong Kong AFP in English 0822 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Oct 25 (AFP)—Opposition legislators Friday unanimously ratified the nomination of former premier Ranil Wickremesinghe to succeed their assassinated leader Gamini Dissanayake as the party's parliamentary chief.

Wickremesinghe, 45, was confirmed as the Opposition Leader in the 225-member assembly despite moves by Dissanayake loyalists to give the leadership of the United National Party (UNP) to a former minister, party sources said.

Two months ago, Dissanayake narrowly won an internal vote to sideline Wickremesinghe, although the former prime minister was the logical successor for the key opposition post.

Wickremesinghe faced a serious challenge from former transport minister Wijayapala Mendis, who lobbied strongly for and got the UNP presidential nomination for Dissanayake's widow, Srima, party sources said.

President Wijetunga had bowed to pressure and signed a confidential letter giving full control over the faction-ridden party to Wickremesinghe after the November 9 presidential elections.

Bitter squabbles erupted in the UNP following Monday's bomb attack on its presidential campaign rally at which three of its key members were slain along with Dissanayake. A total of 57 people died in the attack.

The UNP accused the separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas, who opened peace talks with the administration of Premier Chandrika Kumarartunga, of involvement in the slaying, and the government in turn has said it could be an inside UNP job.

Kamaratunga Denies Government-LTTE Tie in Killing

BK2810120794 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Chandrika Bandaranaike- Kumaratunga has said that although her government was involved in discussions with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], it was not prepared to whitewash the activities of that group. She also said that the whole world knows that the LTTE had killed their own Tamil leaders. She also said that taking into consideration the political situation and the happenings in the past, she still has confidence that the LTTE is committed to settle this problem in a peaceful way.

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At a news briefing in Colombo yesterday, the prime minister said the government has rejected all accusations against it regarding the assassination of Mr. Gamini Dissanayake and others last Sunday. She also said that the opposition has accused that the government and the LTTE had conspired the assassination of the former leader of the opposition and emphasized that the statement issued at a news conference at the office of the opposition leader yesterday regarding this accusation was unfounded and totally a lie.

The prime minister pointed out that her government will prove its integrity by identifying the people who conspired this assassination. She said that even though if LTTE accepts its responsibility for this incident, she would continue to take efforts to solve the ethnic problem through a political process. The prime minister commented that it was wrong to take a decision at present regarding this matter and that one should not forget that the government will have to have talks with the LTTE.

Speaking at the news conference, Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamer quoted examples of such violence that took place during peace talks. He said that similar incidents have happened during the Israel-PLO peace talks. He said that if such incidents were taken into consideration, no one could hold any peace talks in the world. The foreign minister further said that all discussions will focus on one objective—peace.

The prime minister said that the armed forces were giving their fullest cooperation in peace process and that the People's Alliance government has confidence in the armed forces. She also said that the People's Alliance government will provide more facilities to those soldiers, who are carrying out their duties under difficult conditions during the last 10 years.

Government has rejected all accusations with regard to the assassination of presidential candidate, Gamini Dissanayake, and others in the bomb blast in Colombo last Sunday. Prime Minister Chandrika Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga said that there is no foundation for the statement made at the news briefing held at the office of the opposition leader yesterday that there had been a conspiracy between the government and the LTTE with regard to the bomb blast which killed almost 55 people.

Addressing media men at (Visumparai) in Colombo, the prime minister rejected as baseless the statement made by former speaker M.H. Mohamed that the government freed terrorists ignoring the instructions of the armed forces. She said that the government freed only those against whom there were no allegations. This too have been done on the instructions of the armed forces. Mrs. Kumaratunga also said that the late Gamini Dissanayake had never requested a meeting with her since she assumed duties as prime minister. She said the peace talks were suspended until the discovery of those who are responsible for the bomb blast. But, the government has not suspended the (provision) of food items and rehabilitation work in the North. There are several opinions about the bomb blast. Some believe it as an action of the LTTE while some are of the view that the bomb blast was the result of a conflict inside the United National Party. The prime minister added that she had consultations with the armed forces before starting peace negotiations for which their consent was given.

War in North Costs Country Over 25 Billion Rupees

BK2710120094 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The war in the North has inflicted tremendous losses in terms of human lives and has cost the country over 25 billion rupees. This was disclosed by Air Marshal H. Gunatillake at the Bandaranaike Center for International Studies recently. The war is costing the government almost 50,000 rupees per minute. With each servicemen killed the government pays an ex gratia payment of 100,000 rupees for a married person and 75,000 rupees for a bachelor. In addition, the dependents continue to receive the monthly salary of the servicemen up to the time of his retirement. In addition, the dependents would receive corresponding salary increases and other benefits as a result of promotion in ranks had the servicemen been alive. The government also sustained the civilian population in Jaffna at enormous cost. Shipping of food and consumer essentials exceed $12,000 per day. A number of NGO's [nongovernment organizations] such as the Red Cross, the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross], and UNHCR are providing support services in health care, education, and related fields. The government all supports 568,000 refugees at a cost of 64 million rupees for month. The biggest damage so far is the loss in human lives, estimated at over 30,000 servicemen and civilians.

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